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Hafa Adai!

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‘Agreements shouldn’t be written in sand’

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

» Torres sends letter to DoD on concerns

CNMI government officials warned Tuesday of finalizing agreements with the U.S. military for new projects advancing in the Northern Marianas while other commitments made years ago potentially overlap, conflict, and remain unfunded to this day.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said Tuesday he has notified the U.S. Department of Defense of these concerns. Torres, when pressed, acknowledged they are negotiating a “programmatic” agreement for a divert airfield project on Tinian “and yet we still need to address…prior ones.”

Programmatic agreements are essentially measures agreed to by consulting parties to protect historic properties affected by Defense projects.

“We are going to have more thorough conversations,” Torres told reporters after a Cabinet event Tuesday. “We cannot continue to be just signing PAs

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SOLAR ECLIPSE FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

A total solar eclipse was seen in some parts of Indonesia and Micronesia yesterday, but on Saipan, which is not in the path of totality, only a partial eclipse was witnessed. Up to 81 percent of the sun was seen darkened during the maximum eclipse which occurred around 11:56am.

CNMI women gather in celebration of Int’l Women’s Day

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

Women from all walks of life in the CNMI and women from various parts of the globe joined together to celebrate the International Women’s Day last Wednesday.

The “Women’s Meet & Greet Dinner Gathering” at the Minatchom Atdao aimed to bring women together to establish a support network.

They also aimed to establish an ongoing social participation for women in need of additional emotional, social,

See WOMEN on Page 4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

At a gathering held Tuesday evening at Minatchom Atdao Pavilion, government leaders joined women leaders from both private and government sectors in an event supporting Women’s Month Celebration. In this photo, from left, are Debra Inos, program administrator of CNMI Women’s Association; House Speaker Ralph Demapan; Rep. Angel Demapan; Sen. Sixto Igisomar; Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog; First Lady Diann Torres; Gov. Ralph DLG Torres; Margaret Cui Lijie, majority shareholder of Imperial Pacific Holdings-Best Sunshine International, Ltd.; Doris Reyes Drew, special assistant for Women’s Affairs Office; Dania Mettao, BSI CSR representative; and Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro, who is also CNMI Women’s Association chairwoman.

Judge confirms Settlement Fund is tax-exempt entity

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood yesterday confirmed that the NMI Settlement Fund is a tax-exempt entity.

Tydingco-Gatewood concurred with the Settlement Fund trustee and counsel for Betty Johnson that the Settlement Fund is an extension of the federal court, and as such, is exempt from taxation under the Commonwealth Code.

The judge ordered the CNMI government to recognize the Settlement Fund as a tax-exempt entity.

Tydingco-Gatewood said contrary to the CNMI government’s contentions, the Settlement Fund is not simply a restructured Retirement Fund nor does it “stand in the shoes” of the Retirement Fund.

Rather, the judge noted, the Settlement Fund is a distinct entity, separate and apart from the Retirement Fund.

Tydingco-Gatewood said the Settlement Fund was created in Johnson’s class action lawsuit under the auspices of the court and, as noted by the trustee and class counsel, is administered by a federally appointed trustee subject to the court’s supervision.

The judge said the trustee was appointed pursuant to Rule 66 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and has all the powers of a federal equity receiver.

“Nevertheless, this does not

See JUDGE on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL

In its 10th year in the islands the CNMI Public School System’s AmeriCorps program is celebrating its members this week as a part of national AmeriCorps Week.

» PAGE 6

NATION

Bernie Sanders breathed new life into his longshot White House bid with a crucial win in Michigan’s primary Tuesday night.

» PAGE 17

ASIA

North Korea’s leader Kim Jong Un has posed beside a purported mock-up of a miniaturized nuclear warhead during a meeting with his top nuclear scientists.

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Local

‘High risk” status of HPO’s grant program lifted

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The National Park Service has lifted the “high-risk status” of the Historic Preservation Fund Grant program under the CNMI Historic Preservation Office, the Office of the Governor announced on Tuesday.

Federal Grants Program analyst Paula Falk Creech wrote to HPO director Mertie Kanie of the news.

“The National Park Service hereby rescinds the high risk status for the Historic Preservation Fund grant program,” Creech said in an email. “The lifting of this high-risk status is because of the improvements in grant, program, and project management. We appreciate your efforts to establish procedures to submit grant applications, project notifications, final project reports, end-of-year reports, and other grant products and documents to the NPS in a timely, complete, and accurate manner.”

Creech said their observation of the HPF grant documents submitted to their office reflect HPO’s “consistent compliance, and exceptional work products” that reflects how the federal Historic Preservation Fund grant program benefits both the citizens of the CNMI and the CNMI HPO by identifying and assisting to preserve CNMI’s irreplaceable historic and prehistoric resources.

“We appreciate the work that your office is accomplishing in the identification, preservation, and protection of your rich cultural heritage,” Creech said.

“I am extremely pleased with the lifting of the high-risk status, and I commend Mertie and her staff’s continued efforts toward program excellence,” said Department of Community and Cultural Affairs outgoing secretary Laura Ogumoro in a statement Tuesday.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres also expressed his appreciation to the grantor, Creech, and the HPO team for working collaboratively to resolve the outstanding issues with the Historic Preservation Fund Grant Program. “I have instructed all government agencies administering federal grants to work with their grantors to resolve any outstanding issues that may prevent program outcomes from being realized. I was made aware of this good news, and I commend Mertie, Secretary Ogumoro, and all their staff for their hard work. I continue to encourage other agencies to follow suit.”

Team Faiye MMAC fundraiser Saturday

Team Faiye will be holding a fundraising event for its participation in the 2016 Marianas March Against Cancer, set on May 13 and 14 at the Hopwood Junior High School grounds.

The Happy Hour Fundraiser is on Saturday, March 12, from 6pm to 10pm at True North Bar & Grill, just beside J.P. Center in Garapan. Tickets for the event are $20 each with two free drinks and chasers. Other drinks will be sold for $1 each.

For more information, call Keiko Shiprit at 783-6950. ***(PR)***

Victoria Hotel owners file racketeering suit vs bank

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The owners of Victoria Hotel filed yesterday a lawsuit in federal court against a bank in Guam that allegedly operated in the CNMI without a full service banking license.

Jesus T. Lizama, his wife Victoria L.G. Lizama, and J&JEV Enterprises Inc. are suing ANZ Guam Inc., formerly known as Citizens Security Bank (Guam) Inc., and five unnamed co-defendants for violation of Commonwealth Consumer Protection Act and Commonwealth Debt Collection Act-wrongful disclosure.

» **Bank based in Guam allegedly operated in the CNMI for years without banking license**

The plaintiffs, through counsel Juan T. Lizama, are also suing the defendants for negligent misrepresentation, intentional misrepresentation, breach of contract, constructive fraud, Federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act, tortuous interference with contractual relations, interference with prospective contractual relations, and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

The plaintiffs asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to hold the defendants liable to pay them in unspecified amount of damages, attorney’s fees, and court costs. They demanded a trial by jury.

Saipan Tribune tried but failed to get comment from ANZ Guam.

According to Lizama in the complaint, on Jan. 10, 1997, plaintiffs executed a $1.8 million loan agreement with Citizens Security Bank (later acquired by ANZ Guam), together with the mortgage associated with the loan guarantee agreement with U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Plaintiffs made payments, even to such extent as making overpayments on the overdue amount to avoid defaulting entirely on the loan.

Lizama said plaintiffs continued to make payment based on Jesus Lizama’s ability to pay until he was unable to meet ANZ’s demands.

Lizama said ANZ’s demands were “unreasonable, excessively coercive, and fraudulent.”

Lizama said after plaintiffs were defaulted on the loan, USDA, as guarantor, paid ANZ its 70 percent guaranteed obligation.

The lawyer said notwithstanding the payment by USDA, ANZ continued to force plaintiffs to pay the entire debt as if USDA’s payment never happened.

Lizama said at the time of the initial mortgage and promissory note, plaintiffs did not know that ANZ was not a full service bank duly licensed to operate in the CNMI.

He alleged that ANZ operated in the CNMI without a license for years but maintaining that it has the legal capacity to own CNMI real properties in fee simple title.

Lizama said at the time of the foreclosure, ANZ was already paid by USDA the guaranteed 70 percent of the plaintiffs’ debt.

At the time of the foreclosure, Lizama said, ANZ did not disclose to the court and to the plaintiffs that it had been paid by USDA the guaranteed amount.

CPA board approves permit for Skywalker’s billboards in airport

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors has approved a permit for Skywalker Communications Group to build billboards within its property.

According to CPA executive director MaryAnn Lizama, Skywalker’s request is to erect two advertising billboards in two areas outside of the airport.

These areas have been identified as the parking area entry and exit and the international terminal exit.

The size of the billboards was also determined.

“Specific dimensions have been pinned down because there are height restrictions and if they exceed or get too close to the height restrictions, they have to go through a study and a permit through the Federal Aviation Administration,” Lizama said.

Lizama reported to the board that Skywalker will be responsible for the erecting of billboards and that they will be responsible for their maintenance.

“They will be responsible should we have any typhoons and Mother Nature issues, they will be responsible for taking them down,” Lizama said.

Although the billboards are said to be not to be made of “two by fours and plain materials,” the final type of billboard is still yet to be finalized.

During the discussion at the board meeting last Wednesday, CPA director Kimberly King-Hinds raised her concern on whether or not it will be part of their master concession as well as the type of content that will be advertised in the billboards.

“While I know that this type of activity will generate revenue for CPA, I’m concerned that if we don’t have a specific policy or guideline in place with regards to these types of activities on CPA property, it leads to room for inconsistencies,” Hinds said, “What is it exactly that we as a board should be comfortable with in terms of advertisement? Do we just allow any type of advertisement? Do we just select specific type of advertisement?”

“We need to have a policy with regards to the types of advertisement,” she added.

Lizama assured that the content will be controlled by CPA.

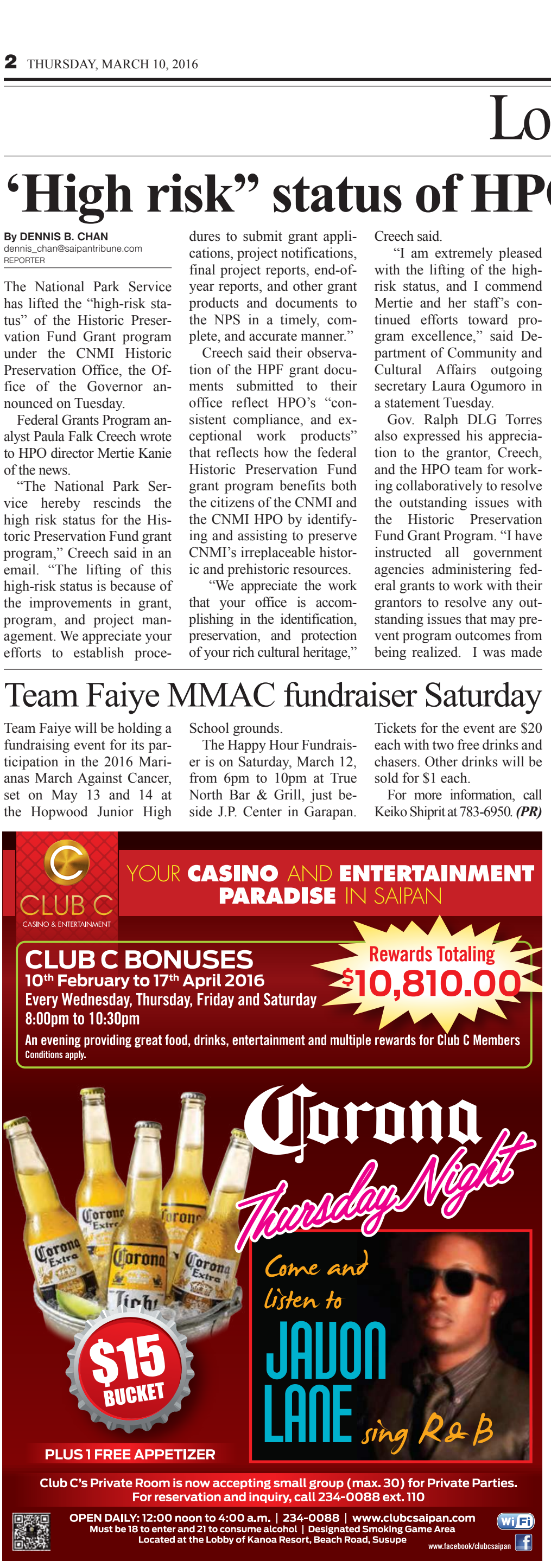
According to Lizama, content restrictions on the billboards can be incorporated in to the agreement.

“They will not proceed with the posting of any type of advertisement without our go-ahead as what is occurring right now with the terminal advertisement,” Lizama said.

Lizama noted that Skywalker’s main interest is promoting events and the hotel and tourism industry.

It was also said at the meeting that that there will be no inappropriate and offensive ads as well as political ads.

Skywalker’s request has been in the works for about 10 months prior to the approval last Wednesday.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Teregeyo sworn in; wants to tackle homesteads

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORER

DENNIS B. CHAN
Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo was sworn into her post as the new Department of Public Lands secretary by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres on Tuesday morning.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres swore in new Department of Lands Secretary Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo to her post last Tuesday.

Immediately after the swearing-in ceremony, Torres and Concepcion-Teregeyo pointed to over 3,000 pending homestead applications on island they would like cleared.

"We want to make it a reality," Torres told reporters after the ceremony. "...Obviously land don't grow. People or family members do grow. We are cognizant of the importance of creating the homestead availability. If not just here on Saipan but also in the Northern Islands."

Torres said there were a lot of homesteads south of Koblerville that they would like expedited, for example. "We will be sitting down the secretary sometime if not this week, early next week to have a short-term goal and a long-term goal."

Torres said for the "short term" they'd like to expedite the homestead program in Koblerville and also work on homesteads in the Northern islands.

"Short and long term: get homesteads out," said Teregeyo in an interview with reporters Tuesday.

"The long-term goal is to clear everybody on our list. We have 3,183 folks that have applied. I think that is reduced by 20 lately and [DPL] staff is still thinning it out," she said, explaining that some applicants have wed, which means, according to homestead rules, their applications "becomes one."

Some people have wed, instead of one each, you just get one; homestead rules, if both homestead have not and they get married; application becomes one, joined

Teregeyo explained they are also "priority listings," if say, one has a child. Another rule allows men and women who've served in the military to be exempt from the rule that requires applicants to build a house on their lot within three years their lot is issued.

On the issue of encroachment, which Teregeyo highlighted in earlier interviews, she said the amount of Northern Marianas Descent encroachers was "very small."

"We have about five that I am aware of and they built their homes on public property. We are looking at the files and we've written letters to some of them."

She added most of the other encroachers are foreigners who have also built homes on public property and in the past have been given notices from the department.

"At this point, I've already issued letters for them to vacate. Some either need to vacate or come in and pay, apply for it, and make payments."

Teregeyo said the department gave these encroachers "about 30 days" to choose. Teregeyo started writing the letters of notice when she was appointed to office earlier this year.

"I've written to nine encroachers so far. Out of the nine encroachers two have come in and supplied all the documents that we need. The deadline isn't up yet," adding that the first deadline is March 15.

"We'll find out at the time if they decided to stay and pay. If not, I've already talked to our compliance section to make sure they are on top of that."

And "…I am very firm on my vacate dates," she added.

Teregeyo said there is also a "great amount" that hasn't been collected by the department for various reasons. "Some foreign companies have closed and move on and there is no trace of them at all in the Commonwealth. I've had a lot of discussion with our legal counsel to see how we can collect from them as well."

There is also the issue of land "exchange" for those who encroach on public property but also point to their private property that government has been using.

"We have encountered some people in Kagman homestead that have encroached on and built their garages on existing public land," Teregeyo said. "So the Department of Public Lands have written them letters and they have come back in and counter-offered this property for that property"

"We have those on record and we are negotiating to finalize them. It is very possible," she added.

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No final details yet on PH overseas voting on Saipan

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

No final information is available yet if there will be a field voting on Saipan for the 2016 Philippine Presidential Elections, exactly one month before the overseas voting period begins.

According to consul Gary Auxilian of the Philippine Consulate General in Guam, who also chairs their Special Board of Election Inspectors committee, they are in discussion with the Philippines Department of Foreign Affairs with regards to conducting field voting for the overseas election, period which will begin next month.

"We were requested by DFA home office if we can suggest possible schedule to conduct field voting in our areas of jurisdiction. We recommended that we want to conduct field voting in Saipan and another one in Palau later on, but we are still waiting for the approval of [the Philippine's] Commission on Elections on that.

Auxilian said they recommended the third or fourth week of April and four days of field voting for Saipan.

"That's what we're hoping for," Auxilian said, "Most likely, there will be a [field voting]. Given the number of overseas voters here, I think Comelec will grant it. We are really hoping and we have strongly recommended to conduct field voting here in Saipan," he added

There are about 11,900 registered Filipino voters in the PCG-Guam's jurisdiction, which includes Guam, the CNMI, Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Marshall Islands

In the CNMI alone, there are more or less 5,000 registered voters, even more than Guam which has about 3,000 plus voters.

"We still don't know what Comelec's instruction is but we do have a one month period of voting abroad," Auxilian said.

The entire overseas voting period for the Philippine elections will start on April 9 and will last until May 9—the actual Election Day in the Philippines.

Auxilian said PCG-Guam has received and is in safekeeping of the automated vote counting machine, which will be stationed in Guam, just last week.

"We don't know also if we're bringing in the automated vote counting machine here but most likely we won't be allowed because it might get damaged," Auxilian said.

He added that it is most likely that they will be bringing the accomplished ballots from Saipan to Guam, and feed them later on to the machine.

Meanwhile, Auxilian reminded Filipinos in the CNMI to check if they are included in the official list of voters.

"The voter's ID is not an assurance that they can vote. Registered voters should check if they are included in the certified list of overseas voters that can be found in the Comelec's website, comelec.gov.ph," Auxilian said.

He added that anyone included in the list, even without their voter's ID, can vote.

"There are others were deleted because they were not able to vote during the last two consecutive elections," Auxilian said.

IT&E plans expansion of microwave system

As part of its continuing efforts to enhance the CNMI's telecommunications infrastructure and provide constantly improving service to its customers, IT&E announced yesterday that it is working on a plan to expand the capacity of the microwave system that is used to back up its undersea cable. Both this cable and the microwave radio system serve the islands of Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam.

In the unlikely event of a disruption of service on the undersea cable, this expanded microwave system could provide full restoration of services to government agencies, emergency and public safety organizations, financial institutions, and enterprise customers.

IT&E anticipates the announcement of additional projects and initiatives in the coming months that will add more value to the service its customers currently receive in Guam and throughout the CNMI. ***(PR)***

AGREEMENTS

From Page 1

[programmatic agreements] and signing, signing, signing."

The CNMI has signed on to two agreements for the "Marianas Islands Range Complex" project in 2009, and the "Guam/CNMI military relocation" project in 2011.

The Department of the Navy, though, has continued to bench the $1.7 million promised for historic projects on Saipan and Tinian until the outcomes of their latest live-fire project on Tinian, according to an information paper provided to Delagate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) late last month.

The Department of the Navy has also "seemingly ignored" the MIRC agreement, which mandated a yearly update of Tinian historic sites to allow for "new data" to alter even "eliminate" training proposals.

The National Park Service signaled as much in a breakdown of the latest military live-fire project, the "CNMI Joint Military Training" project, or CJMT, last month.

The Service found that the CJMT ignored MIRC-sponsored cultural studies that recommended military "constraint" areas or mitigation zones.

These zones appear to have been ignored or are "non-existent" in the CJMT, the NPS report found.

"That we are negotiating other PAs, while previous PAs have gone unfulfilled, does not lend credibility to the process or the promises," said Robert Hunter, executive director of the NMI Museum of History and Culture.

"If DOD representatives are going to spend the significant amount of time and resources, both theirs and ours, to negotiate these PAs," Hunter said, "then they should be doing so with the complete support and backing of the DOD and the U.S. Congress, otherwise these are as good as promises written in sand."

'Abide by contracts'

Torres sent a letter to the U.S. Pacific command Anthony Crutchfield on Tuesday that echoed these concerns, and how they "tie in" with the divert airfield and CJMT project, a senior administration official confirmed Tuesday.

Crutchfield is the single point of contact for Defense projects in the NMI.

"We as a government, we as a CNMI," said Torres, "abide by those contracts and agreements and we would like to have DoD—or any other entity for that matter—that when we have an agreement, 'you put your share in and we put our share in' and address those agreements, before we move on to the next step."

"I have echoed that concern and I am waiting their response," Torres told reporters on Tuesday.

Hunter, for his part, agreed.

"This [2011] programmatic agreement, which was negotiated over many months between CNMI and Guam agencies, to help address concerns related to current and future increased military use, has sat for years without seeing the inclusion of these funds in the DOD budget," Hunter told *Saipan Tribune*.

In the case of the museum, the $1.7 million that would be directed to it would go toward an onsite storage and curatorial facility at the museum, Hunter said.

These would house current historic materials that were derived from past, current, and future, military-use properties, and additionally provide for a small museum/interpretive exhibit on Tinian.

"These monies would go a long way toward assisting the museum with its storage and curatorial workspace needs, " Hunter said, "and would finally see a museum on Tinian, which played an extremely important role during the war, and is playing an increasingly important military role."

Controlling legal documents

The previous programmatic agreements set the precedent, or are seen as the controlling legal documents, amid discussion for more mitigation agreements or resolutions to the latest planned military projects in play.

"The DON remains committed to funding cultural resources mitigation measures for Tinian…if the portions of the action planned for Tinian…are carried out," the Defense Department told Sablan's office last month.

Defense was referring to the small arms ranges approved on Tinian but remain "on hold," pending completion of review for the CJMT.

The 2011 programmatic agreement stipulated, among others, that the military include in an "upcoming president budget submission" a request for Congress to authorize and appropriate money to cover $1.2 million for a curation facility on Saipan, and $500,000 for a cultural and interpretive center on Tinian.

Asked if Defense has ever included the request in the President's budget, Sablan's deputy communications director Tina Sablan said Monday, "No, they have not,"

"And Congressman Sablan shares the same concerns that Commonwealth officials and historic preservation advocates have expressed, that the Department of Defense should be held accountable for commitments outlined in the Programmatic Agreement to support and fund cultural resource mitigation measures," Tina Sablan said Monday. "The congressional office will continue to monitor completion of the revised CJMT EIS, and DoD's efforts to follow through on all their obligations, including the obligation to protect the cultural, historic, and environmental treasures of the Northern Marianas from harm."

The MIRC agreement, for its part, states "training constraint maps" would be updated on "yearly basis so that these maps remain current as new information comes available" and that "training activities may be eliminated, reduced, or expand based on new data." However, not only are the training constraint areas and historical data ignored by the military's live-fire project, NPS found last month, "some of the most significant impacts" to historic and cultural resources would "occur in training constraint areas and/or would result from actions that go against" the Navy's own findings.

The Park Service report found that a "high hazard impact" training area in the CJMT project was given "limited training" designations in the earlier Navy project.

WOMEN

From Page 1

and economic support as well as recognition, praise and continued support for women in leadership or women striving to live independently.

According to special assistant for Women's Affairs and a board member of the CNMI Women's Association, Dolores Reyes Drew, this is the first time that a gathering of this kind was held.

"I found out that I need to gather all our women together. It's going to be late for us if we just wait until we have funding," said Drew, who also spearheaded the "Women's Meet & Greet Dinner Gathering."

"I would like to bring them together so we would have very strong times with all women from everywhere," she added.

Drew said they would like to gather the women regardless of nationality as every woman is playing a vital role in the society.

Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan), who chairs the CWA, called on the women to be role models to fellow females in the community and to take on a more active role, particularly in the Legislature.

Ogumoro pointed out that while women make up 50 percent of the Commonwealth's population, they only make up 7 percent of the elected body.

"Let us work to continue to be role models for our young women and girls, so that they are able to realize their goals and dreams without the same barriers and challenges we faced as a result of our gender," Ogumoro said.

Ogumoro also expressed her support to Drew.

"We support you 100 percent in your office's efforts, and look forward to the continued collaboration necessary for us to achieve equality," Ogumoro said.

For Drew, the top issues concerning women in the CNMI are "health, education, and the economy." She added that they have a grant this year that would help them educate women in the community.

"There are some girls out there who want to find a job but they don't know how to write their resumes. So we'd like to help them," Drew said.

She added that they would seek more grants in the future and a summit will be held on March 30 and 31 for 175 participants, where in they will work on establishing leadership, and educating women on the economy.

JUDGE

From Page 1

equate the Settlement Fund to the Retirement Fund under receivership," Tydingco-Gatewood pointed out.

Tydingco-Gatewood heard the tax-exempt issue last Tuesday.

According to Settlement Fund trustee Joyce C. H. Tang and Johnson's class counsel, Robert M. Hatch, the Settlement Fund is a tax exempt because the settlement agreement in the class action expressly provides for the appointment of a "person to act as an officer of the District Court to be the trustee of the Settlement Fund."

Tang said the audit for the Settlement Fund for fiscal year 2014 by Ernst & Young began in January 2015 and has been completed.

However, Tang said, because of a disagreement between the CNMI government and the Settlement Fund on the tax issue, the completion of the audit has been delayed.

The Office of the Attorney General asked the court to hold off on deciding the tax issue, saying it should refer that decision to the director of Revenue and Taxation.

However, if the court proceeds with deciding the issue, the CNMI government's position is that the Settlement Fund is a tax-exempt entity, according to assistant attorney general Teresita Sablan.

The OAG likened the Settlement Fund to the Retirement Fund under receivership and argued that "an entity under receivership does not become federal in nature."

In her order, Tydingco-Gatewood said whether the Settlement Fund is a tax exempt entity depends on the nature and characterization of the Settlement Fund as created by the settlement agreement.

Thus, Tydingco-Gatewood said, with all due respect to the CNMI Department of Revenue and Taxation director, the court will not refrain from making a determination on the Settlement Fund's tax exempt status.

Green home design winner to represent NMI in Guam

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Fifteen entries—10 from Kagman High School and five from Marianas High School—in the Green Dream Home design contest will be vying for the right to represent the CNMI in the 2016 Green Dream Home Competition to be held during the 7th Regional Conference on Island Sustainability next month.

This was according to MHS Cooperative Education and Career Technical Education Teacher Jeaniffer H. Cubangbang, one of the organizers of the 2016 Island-wide Science Technology Engineering Mathematics Fair to be held at Saipan Southern High School.

Cubangbang said KHS and MHS first held school-wide competitions for the Green Dream Home design. KHS chose the Top 10 designs while MHS will have five entries.

"Judges from contractor HBR International will then choose the most feasible and realistic design and the winner will be the entry in Guam's competition. The designs are complete with blueprints, scale model, and the cost if you're going to build it," said Cubangbang.

Energy production or renewable energy systems, energy efficiency and independence from mechanical cooling and heating systems, home design, sustainable garden, landscape, water catchment systems, composting and recycling, and other ideas suitable for island communities are the components from the designs that the judges would focus on in the Guam competition.

Aside from the Green Home Design contest, 112 winning projects from all public and private schools in the elementary and middle and high schools of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota will also be competing for honors in the annual STEM Fair.

The best three projects in each cluster will be given honors in the awards ceremony at 12:45pm. Kinder to second grade form Cluster 1, Cluster 2 is for grades three to five, grades six to eight are in Cluster 3, while grades nine to 12 are in Cluster 4. The first placers will then represent the CNMI in the 38th Annual Guam Islandwide STEM Fair in May at the University of Guam.

Registration and set up for the STEM Fair is set from 4pm to 6pm. Judging begins at 9am and the exhibit opens at 11:15am for the community where they get the chance to vote for the Viewers Choice award.

MHS' Blue Marianas Productions, a Junior Achievement Company, is providing the manpower and voting booth. The Viewers Choice will receive a certificate, gold medal, and $50 worth of prizes.

Student scientists from the Short-Term Research Experience for Underrepresented Persons and members of two-time national winning STEM Fair ambassadors and Real World Design Challenge champions, Aeronautical Dolphins, will also grace the event.

Organizers are also encouraging to use the hashtag #pssSTEM when using your social media accounts like Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Intoxicated man allegedly held jaw, choked common-law wife

Police arrested on Tuesday in Achugao a man who, while intoxicated, allegedly choked and held the jaw of his common-law wife out of jealousy.

Eloy Udui Teriong, 29, was arrested for assault and battery, assault, and disturbing the peace.

At a hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a $1,750 cash bail and set the preliminary hearing for March 16 at 9am.

Assistant public defender Tillman Clark was appointed as counsel for Teriong. Assistant attorney general Betsy Weintraub appeared for the government.

Police Detective Daniel Maliuyaf stated in his report that two police officers responded to Achugao after the Department of Public Safety Central received a call about a disturbance on Sunday afternoon.

Maliuyaf said the victim told him that she and her 1-year-old daughter arrived at a compound in Achugao, where Teriong was drinking beer with his father and two other men.

She parked the car to let Teriong know that their daughter was not sleeping yet.

Teriong walked to her and threatened to slap her with a beer can. She was confused so she asked what was going on.

Teriong then accused her of having an affair, grabbed and squeezed her hand, and asked her to give him a ride to Tanapag beach.

Teriong started arguing with his father and everybody on the table. She tried to calm him down and told him to get a ride anywhere so he can relax his mind.

While in the car, Teriong started to get mad again, accused her of having an affair, and allegedly held her jaw and choked her.

Teriong later got down from the car and walked toward the beach side of Tanapag. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

Proposed Plan For Tanapag Fuel Farm

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announces that it will convene a meeting to engage public participation in its Proposed Plan for the Tanapag Fuel Farm HTRW (hazardous, toxic, and radioactive waste) project in accordance with the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS). The Proposed Plan has been prepared to provide an overview of chemicals of potential concern detected at the former fuel farm and the results of a human health risk assessment leading to a preferred remediation alternative.

An Army Corps of Engineers representative will be available to receive your comments and questions on the Proposed Plan during a public meeting to be held on the date, time, and location stated below.

Meeting Date: Thursday, March 17, 2016
Meeting Time: 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Meeting Location: U.S. Army Reserve Center, Saipan, Building G

You may also submit written comments concerning the Proposed Plan to:

Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Honolulu District
Programs and Project Management Division
Environmental Branch
Building 230
Attn: CEPOH-PP-E (Helene Takemoto)
Fort Shafter, HI 96858-5440
Telephone: 808.835.4088
Fax: 808.835.4129
E-Mail: FUDS-POH@usace.army.mil

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IT&E's blazing fast 4G LTE network makes your life in motion awesome
Samsung Galaxy S6 Edge Plus (32Gb) $299
Samsung Galaxy S6 Edge Plus (64Gb) $399
SAMSUNG
91% 2:02 PM
2:02 PM
Mon, March 7
CNMI
Social
Checkbook
Facebook
Speedtest
IT&E
Life In Motion
*Terms and conditions apply. Chalan Lau Lau (8AM-5PM) • Wireless Express Center (8AM - 6PM)

AmeriCorps Week celebrates tutors and their positive impact

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Author's note: *This reporter serves as an AmeriCorps volunteer tutor at Hopwood Junior High School. In this three-part series, he will highlight the success of the AmeriCorps program and its members as a part of AmeriCorps Week.*

In its 10th year in the islands the CNMI Public School System's AmeriCorps program is celebrating its members this week as a part of national AmeriCorps Week. The federally funded program currently manages 45 high school student tutors from public and private schools.

» Tutors serve over 35K hours in program year

According to AmeriCorps coordinator Victoria Nicholas, members perform a minimum of 675 hours of volunteer service, undergo training in the field of teaching, and receive an education award to assist in furthering their college education after their service. The national AmeriCorps program has existed for two decades.

"The service learning component of our program provides on the job training that directly relates to PSS strategic goals of having college- and career-ready high school graduates," she said. "Members are also tasked with providing relief and recovery services in the event of disaster."

Nicholas said the AmeriCorps' mission is fourfold: getting things done, strengthening community, encouraging responsibility, and expanding opportunity.

In the area of education, she noted that 97 percent of members completed 675 or more hours of service and received close to $70,750 in education awards last year.

Members also lent a helping hand in the aftermath of Typhoon Soudelor.

AmeriCorps members helped serve 18,362 meals with the Salvation Army. They also assisted at United 4 Saipan, Karidat, CARE Distribution Warehouse, and other direct relief organizations.

"The community grows and benefits when our tutors help more students to read at grade level, this will increase the likelihood that they will stay in school, graduate from high school, go on to college, or obtain meaningful jobs, thus becoming active contributors to our island community, Nicholas added.

Hopwood tutor and Marianas High School senior Luigi Alonzo told *Saipan Tribune* that he got involved in AmeriCorps to make a difference.

"AmeriCorps changed my life dramatically because I got to learn to love each and every one of my students and create an everlasting bond with them," he said.

For her part, fellow tutor Eloise Lopez said that she took part in the program to make an impact in the community.

She said, "Americorp changed my life because I never knew that I could be worthy as I am with others too. I always thought myself to be doing everything on my own. AmeriCorps gave me hope to work in a team and continue serving others."

AmeriCorps tutors and their supervisors across the island celebrated the week with various activities on their respective campuses. AmeriCorps week will culminate with a roadside waving this Friday at 4pm at the Microl intersection.

To learn more about the program or how to get involved visit www. cnmipss. org/AmeriCorps.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Public School System AmeriCorps members pose for a photo at a recent classroom management training.

9th Circuit: Donald Flores' claims for $200K TCD timely filed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has ruled that the claims of the late former Saipan mayor Donald G. Flores, that a bank breached the contract and violated the Commonwealth Consumer Protection Act in connection with his alleged time certificate of deposit in the amount of $200,000, were timely filed in court and so may proceed.

The Ninth Circuit reversed U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona's ruling that the clock on Flores' claims started to run in 1999 when he visited the bank, so his right to sue had expired by 2011 when he filed the lawsuit.

The federal court held that Flores' visit to Union Bank in 1999 and his inquiry—"how I get my money"—constituted a demand.

The 9th Circuit judges disagree.

The 9th Circuit judges said it is disputed whether Flores was requesting payment or merely inquiring about the process by which to redeem his time certificate of deposit.

The 9th Circuit judges said even if Flores requested payment, Union Bank did not refuse to pay him at that time.

The judges said instead, the bank simply told him to bring in his time certificate deposit, which was a conditional acceptance.

The judges said the statute of limitations did not begin to run until Flores' demand was refused.

The 9th Circuit judges said although this is an issue of first impression in the CNMI, every court to consider what constitutes a "demand" in the context of suing on a certificate of deposit requires not only an unequivocal "demand," but also a refusal.

Flores

The 9th Circuit judges concluded that that CNMI Supreme Court would follow the general rule and hold that a refusal is required to begin the statute of limitations after a demand for payment of certificate of deposit has been made.

Accordingly, the judges said, Flores' claim did not accrue in 1999.

Attorney Juan T. Lizama, counsel for the administrator of Flores' estate, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that their appeal was filed in late 2013, but it took a long time for the Ninth Circuit to hear the parties argue the merits.

"Sadly, during that wait, both Mr. and Mrs. Flores passed away so they are not able to witness the good news," Lizama said.

Lizama said he looks forward to moving forward with this case so they can finally realize justice and get the Flores family their money back with appropriate interest as well as penalties for Union Bank's unreasonable and irrational refusal to honor a clear contractual commitment, and for breaking the law meant to protect people from this sort of power-play against the bank's small customers.

Flores sued Union Bank and First Hawaiian Bank for allegedly refusing to return the principal and interest earned on a certificate of deposit in the amount of $200,000 that he bought from the then-Union Bank Saipan branch in 1993.

In 2011, Union Bank sold all its assets and liabilities of its Saipan branch to FHB.

Manglona granted summary judgment to Union Bank on the ground that the statute of limitations bars Flores' claims. The judge awarded attorney's fees to defendants.

Lizama, counsel for the administrator of Flores' estate, then appealed, asking the 9th Circuit to reverse the District Court's ruling that the statute of limitations began to run in 1999.

Lizama argued that it took Mr. and Mrs. Flores nine years to find the certificate of deposit but when they did Union Bank refused to pay.

Lizama said all of the delay in this case since 2008 is the bank's fault.

In the 9nth Circuit ruling, the judges said that on June 10, 2008, Flores wrote to Union Bank, formally requesting payment.

"This action was unequivocally a demand that was refused on Sept. 22, 2008, when the bank wrote back," they said.

The judges hold that a cause of action accrued on that date and began the statute of limitations period.

Flores filed his lawsuit on Sept. 22, 2011, claiming breach of contract, unjust enrichment, negligence, fraud, and violation of the CNMI Consumer Protection Act.

In the CNMI, the statute of limitations for contract claims is six years. The period is four years for claims under the Consumer Protection Act. It is two years for tort claims.

The 9th Circuit judges hold that Flores' contract claims and Consumer Protection Act claim are not barred by the statute of limitations; his tort claims are time-barred.

The judges upheld the District Court's awarding attorney's fees to defendants.

Judge Jay Scott Bybee concurred in part and dissented in part.

Bybee said the majority judges has stepped into the role of factfinder and decided that Union Bank did not refuse Flores.

"If the majority is unsure—as I am—that decedent demanded his money, I don't see how the majority gets to decide that the bank didn't refuse him," Bybee said.

Bybee said the issues of demand and refusal should be decided by a jury.

House passes bill to establish scholarship for special education, disability services

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Blas Jonathan Attao (Ind-Saipan)'s bill to establish a scholarship for CNMI students pursuing studies that support special education and disability services in the NMI passed the House last Friday and now heads to the Senate.

House Bill 19-63, HD3, notes that the Public School System is left to recruit professionals from off-island due to the lack of specialty areas in the Commonwealth, and that these off-island hire often do not stay longer than one or two contract periods. "The Public School System's constant reliance on off island hires is costly and burdensome to the Commonwealth and does not allow for a stable workforce of providers."

The bill establishes a "Related Services Providers Scholarship" for student pursuing a master's degree in counsel and behavioral therapy, speech and language pathology, occupational therapy, physical therapy, audiology, special education, psychology, among others, in fully accredited master's degree program.

The scholarship will be awarded to five students per year up to three years after the establishment of the program.

Each scholarship is set at a maximum of $20,000 per students.

Students must be a U.S. citizen and a CNMI resident for at least five consecutive years prior to enrollment in the master's program; possess a bachelor's degree from a U.S.-accredited institution; agree to return to the CNMI six months after graduation for "a period of three years for each year of scholarship assistance," among several other requirements.

PSS will administer the scholarship and provide an annual report to the legislature and governor on the program.

An amount of $300,000 from the PSS annual budget starting fiscal year 2017 will be deposited to the scholarship account, set up by the Department of Finance, to implement the program, according to the bill.

The provisions of the bill will expire five years after its implementation.

"The enactment [of the bill] will result in minimal loss of revenue for" PSS, "but the investment made in education our workforce" will help PSS and ensure "our children with disabilities receive the best possible education in the CNMI will heavily outweigh the loss and will help support the Public School System to put students first," the House committee on education said its in report on the bill.

Aside from Attao, the bill was also introduced by Reps. Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan), George Camacho (R-Saipan), Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Edwin Propst (Ind-Saipan), John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), Vinson Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Ramon Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan), Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), and Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan).

Removal of contaminated soil, drums restores Managaha

The CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality has been successful in its work on restoring Managaha Island.

In 2010, BECQ discovered pesticide contamination in parts of the island linked to mounds of buried drums found mostly on the island's southeast side through a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment.

Through funding from the State and Tribal Response Program from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the last three years, BECQ administrator Frank Rabauliman said they were able to remove pesticide-contaminated soil, buried drums, and discarded marine batteries in two small isolated areas on Managaha Island.

Rabauliman said they were able to excavate and remove from the island over 42 cubic yards of pesticide-contaminated soil, 23 rusted drums, and 17 discarded marine batteries.

Restoration efforts on Managaha Island was completed through a confirmation sampling at the excavation sites after showing no contaminants.

Because of the success, this led to the permitting of Managaha as a Green Sea Turtle nesting area by the United States Fish & Wildlife Services.

Rabauliman reiterated the importance of continuing these preservation and protection efforts in the future.

"The CNMI depends on tourism, which the EPA acknowledges, and restoration of these areas ensure that Managaha Island continues to be a popular tourist destination since it plays a vital role in the economy as well as an important place in history," Rabauliman said.

Recently, a State and Tribal Response Program report from the U.S. EPA highlighted the restoration efforts accomplished in Managaha.

It recognized Managaha Island as "a significant cultural and historical location that covers 13.2 acres off the western coast of the island of Saipan."

"The entire island is listed on the United States National Register of Historic Places and is a designated U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) conservation and nesting habitat for threatened Green Sea turtles and migratory Shearwater birds," the report said. ***(Frauleine Villanueva-Dizon)***

House finds $150,000 for drug court

A bill co-sponsored by Reps. Antonio Sablan (R-Saipan) and Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) to fund the local drug court program was passed by the House of Representatives in a unanimous vote last Friday.

House Bill 19-40,HD1 amends last year's budget law to allocate $150,000 to the newly established drug court.

Of the $150,000 to the drug court, $125,000 will be reallocated to Superior Court for drug court personnel.

The bill amends appropriations for the judicial branch "to ensure that the CNMI Drug Court is properly funded to effectuate a collaborative non-adversarial system to effect the rehabilitation and recovery of drug offenders through continuous drug court monitoring, regular drug testing, and holistic drug dependency treatment."

The bill has been sent to the Senate for passage.

The bill passed on first and final reading last Friday.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed the law to establish a drug court program last October.

Implementation of a drug court allows the CNMI to join Guam and the 50 other states, all which have drug courts, in a collaborative effort to address the devastating effects of crime in the CNMI's families and communities. ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

3 Saipan villages experiencing temporary water interruption

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in the village of Garapan, Chinatown, and Navy Hill are experiencing temporary water service interruptions.

The temporary water service interruption in Garapan is caused by a burnt water well pump resulting in a major water well problem on SQl50 in Sadog Tasi.

Repair personnel are currently addressing the issue and repairs are anticipated to be completed today, March 10. Customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of services by tomorrow, March 11.

The temporary water service interruption in Chinatown and Navy Hill, meanwhile, is caused by a pump failure at the Maui shaft in Sadog Tasi.

CUC water personnel determined the damage to the shaft yesterday morning and commenced the repair process. The repairs will continue and is expected to be completed today, March 10, and water service restored tomorrow, March 11.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447 / 234-7670 • Fax: 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE

Annual Community Assessment Report for Program Year 2014

This notice is to inform the general public that the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) has received its Annual Community Assessment Report for Program Year 2014 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The review period is for thirty (30) days ending on April 11, 2016.

The report contains information regarding the CNMI's performance in addressing and fulfilling the Community Planning and Development (CPD) grant requirements.

The report is available for viewing at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; NMHC Field Office in San Jose, Tinian; NMHC Field Office in Songsong Village, Rota. You may also view the report at our website at www.nmhcgov.net.

If you may have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our office at (670)234-6866/9447 or email our office at nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp.

NMHC will make necessary arrangements for persons with disabilities. If you should require any special accommodations please contact our office.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

Type II Handcrew Packtest

March 12, 2016 at 0530 hours
Kilili Beach North Parking Lot

The Department of Fire & Emergency Medical Services [DFEMS] Forestry Strike Team is looking for individuals for our Type II Handcrew. Applicants must be disciplined, reliable, physically fit, and are able to work hard under tough conditions.

TEST: Applicants must complete a 3 mile walk (no running) with a 45 lbs pack under a 45 minute time period.

REQUIREMENTS: IS 700, certification for returning individuals and a valid passport to enter the United States. Must turn in items before the packtest.

Contact Person: Firefighter Linus L. Mizutani Jr.
Email: llmizutani@dfems.gov.mp | Tel.: 285-7324

Santos: FEMA decision on flood insurance needs review

ROTA—"When a policy decision piles hardship against families in a small island community, it's time revisit the genesis of the matter in the interest of ensuring that it doesn't suffocate or displace our people unnecessarily, " said Sen. Terista Santos (R-Rota).

Santos alluded to a letter she sent to the regional administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region IX that ruled some three years ago that homeowners in some areas on Rota are flood prone and thus the need to buy flood insurance policies.

Santos said the decision "misses the fact that some of the houses are situated in high grounds" therefore the requirement of home insurance is irrelevant. "It's understood for homes located in lower lying areas but those in high elevation makes the requirement ludicrous", she said.

Santos

"The decision inadvertently places more families to endure hardship back home where the cost of living is triple the cost here in the business center," she noted. "Policy decisions are supposed to enhance the livelihood of our people not the reverse."

"It should also be remembered that the family unit is the strongest institution anywhere in the world so let not a misperceived policy serve as a tool of familial hardship," she said. "I'm optimistic it could be resolved forthwith".

"This and other policies hailing from federal agencies that threaten our way of life definitely deserve critical review by both sides of the Pacific Divide," Santos noted. "It raises the urgency of the much sought 902 Talks so we review federal policies issued by what's known as the 'Administrative State' manned by people we never elected into office yet whose work product can't even be amended by the U.S. Congress."

"A perfect example of willful imposition of a disruptive federal policy is the acquisition of an enormous amount of public land for wild life at the expense of our way of life that includes farming," she pointed out. "This policy must receive critical review in the interest of the people I represent for I don't recall being elected by wildlife creatures."

"DNLR must work with Region IX's fish and wildlife and begin exploring translocation of wildlife to places like Sariguan in the north where they could propagate abundantly", she said. "There's nobody up there so why not bring Rota's wildlife there where conditions are basically the same.

"It's time that we begin actively and proactively working jointly with Washington on matters where federal policies do threaten to interfere, inhibit or even violate the cultural heritage of our people", she noted. "It's also timely that we collectively join the request of the late governor for the revival of the 902 Talks."

Santos further noted an article in *National Affairs*, a quarterly journal in Washington, D.C., explaining a ruling by Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas who called into question "the constitutionality of the massive and largely unaccountable bureaucracy commonly referred to as the administrative state.

"In bold and clear prose, Thomas explained how the basic principles of our Constitution's separation of powers are incompatible with the system of bureaucratic rule that took root in the Progressive era and now reaches into virtually every realm of American life," said Santos.

National Affairs is a quarterly journal of essays about domestic policy, political economy, society, culture, and political thought. It aims to help Americans think a little more clearly about our public life, and rise a little more ably to the challenge of self-government. ***(PR)***

Sons of Saipan donates cement mixer to NMTI

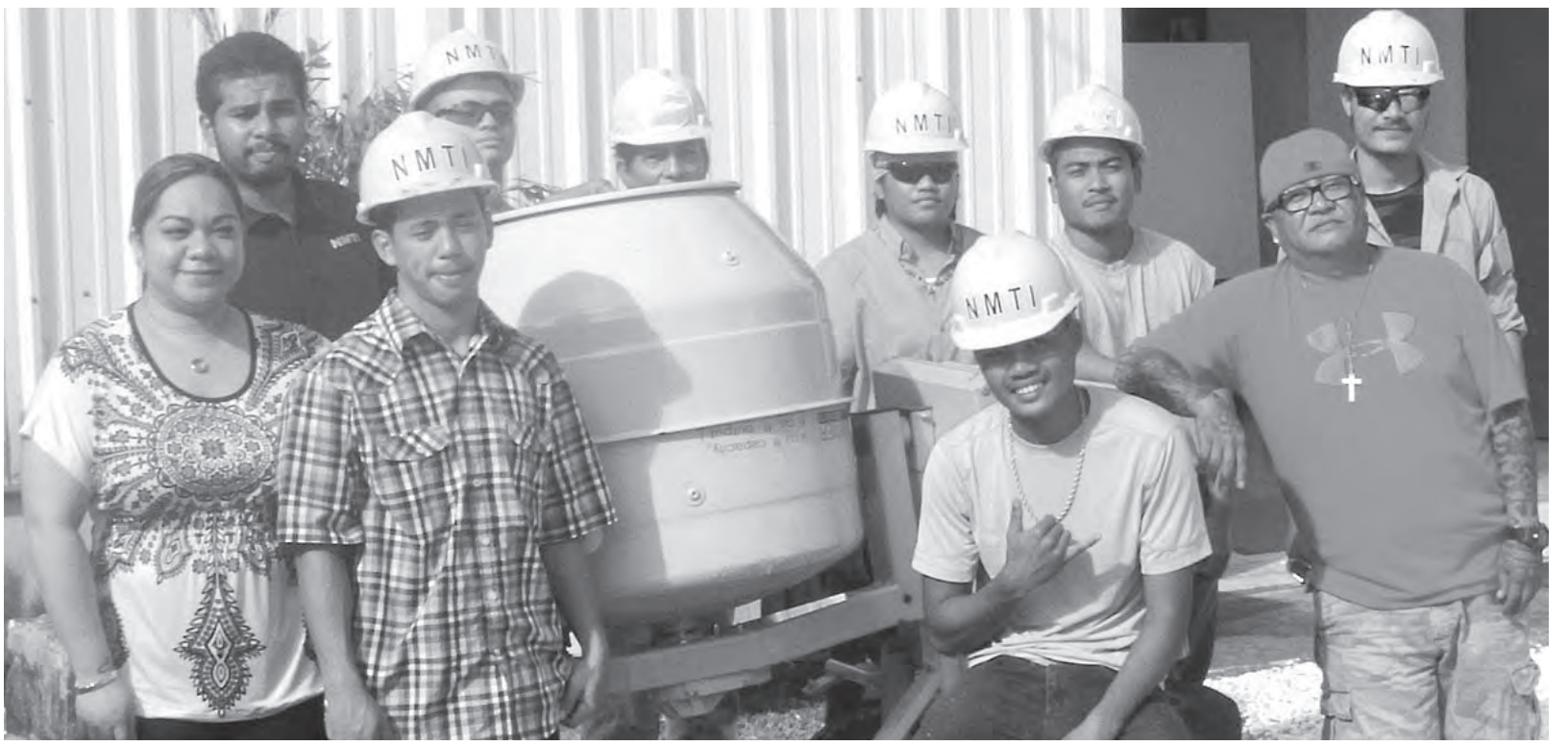
The Northern Marianas Trades Institute's Construction Trades Program recently received a donation of a brand new cement mixer.

The item, donated by a Guam-based philanthropy group calling themselves the Sons of Saipan, was received earlier last week. The group is comprised of young business professionals residing in the neighboring territory and they have been actively looking for ways at assisting their homeland since Super Typhoon Soudelour. Many of Saipan's residents during that rough period were afforded emergency supplies such as canned goods, children's pampers, and mosquito coils to name a few from this group that continues its fundraising efforts through various means.

According to information received from SOS through correspondence on the donation, "in December 2015, the Santa Rita Mayor's Office hosted Bingo Night Fundraisers and generously donated $1,500 to the SOS for the typhoon Soudelor reconstruction efforts. Through other donations made to SOS, the Sons of Saipan were able to match the donation by the Santa Rita's Mayor's Office and purchase the cement mixer which was shipped directly to NMTI."

The organization's donation is welcome news to NMTI as it helps the Construction Trades Program in its effort at providing island residents with equipment students need to succeed in their career endeavors. As NMTI touts a "hands on learning" approach, running trades classes is somewhat different from a regular academic stand point in that it is a bit more expensive to conduct according to Department Chair, Rip Stephenson.

When John Oliver Gonzales, chairman of NMTI's Board of Directors, heard about the arrival of the mixer, he immediately said, "we are truly blessed to have organizations' that care about the well being of our community. SOS' contribution is testament that there are many of our people out there that continue to practice their Christian beliefs regardless of residence. My colleagues on the Board of Directors cannot thank SOS enough as their donation helps alleviate some of the loss we've experienced recently through burglary. This item would serve as a major tool toward helping individuals still suffering today; as many of our students continue to perform community service construction projects hailing from Soudelour damage as part of their internship requirement." ***(PR)***



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Northern Marianas Trades Institute's Construction Trades Program faculty and students pose with the cement mixer Guam-based Sons of Saipan donated recently.

TO SUPPORT LONG-TERM REBUILDING

CARE requests $250K from SNILD

The Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts on Monday requested an immediate initial investment of $250,000 from the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation to support long-term, resilient-building solutions for Saipan families still with unmet housing needs as a result of Typhoon Soudelor. The request was made during CARE's presentation on the status of ongoing long-term recovery efforts to SNILD in the House chamber.

"The unmet housing need for many victims of Typhoon Soudelor is still significant," said CARE president Alex Sablan. "Too many Saipan families still have home repair needs or need to completely rebuild their homes, but have received insufficient FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) aid or no aid at all and cannot meet the expense of rebuilding a safe, sanitary, and functional home on their own."

According to case management data as of March 6, 2016, 524 families on Saipan still have unmet needs for housing repairs or the complete rebuilding of their homes. Many of these families are still going through the FEMA appeals process, and once that process is exhausted their cases will be presented to the CARE Unmet Needs Table for assistance. To date, CARE has received 40 case referrals and has allocated $103,500 in resources toward long-term rebuilding.

"It has been over seven months since Soudelor, and some families are still living in emergency tents," said CARE director Jenny Hegland. "Unfortunately, many of these families simply have nowhere else to turn for help." Case management data reveals that 477 (91 percent) of the 524 households with unmet housing needs have a family member that is elderly, under 3 years old, with functional or immediate medical needs, or the family's income is below the poverty line.

CARE's request for $250,000 in immediate assistance to help fund reconstruction efforts is the first part of CARE's total request of up to $5 million from SNILD. The total request, originally made via letter on Feb. 18, 2016, is part of a multi-agency, two-year plan to finance home repairs and reconstruction for those with unmet housing needs following Typhoon Soudelor. Working with case managers, project coordinators, and resource managers through the FEMA-funded, long-term case management program, CARE would facilitate the allocation of construction resources to meet the unmet housing need through processes established and currently operating through the CARE Unmet Needs Table. The unmet housing need is slowly decreasing as clients receive additional FEMA aid through appeals, and as CARE allocates rebuilding assistance. CARE estimates that the total unmet housing need following Soudelor as of March 6 is just over $12.1 million, which is about an 11-percent decrease from the unmet housing need cost estimated in early January.

"Any investment by SNILD will allow CARE to leverage up to an equal amount's worth of additional resources, including skilled volunteer labor from off-island disaster recovery partner agencies," said Sablan. CARE intends that the initial $250,00 investment would be used to facilitate the transportation and supplying of an initial wave of skilled volunteers to do home repairs and rebuilds. "We have an immediate need for off-island construction support as victims of Super Typhoon Soudelor, Red Cross IDCM case workers, and members of CARE have been unable to locate or access needed on-island construction manpower to assist typhoon victims due to the current construction boom and a severe shortage of local construction expertise. Identifying and financing the labor costs is the single largest hurdle between building a more resilient community with safe housing stock that can survive the next typhoon, and where we are now. This is an investment that SNILD can make not only for these families, but to improve the resiliency of our whole community."

CARE is helping to build a more resilient community by facilitating coordination between network partners, business and government leaders, and community volunteers, identifying unmet needs, and delivering long-term support to those most impacted by disaster. For more information, go to www.cnmicare.com. ***(PR)***

DYS strives to promote healthy child development through positive parenting

Division of Youth Services administrator Vivian Sablan highlighted its many accomplishments to promote the well-being of children, youth, families, and the community as a whole.

Their mission, she says, is to help strengthen families and to promote healthy child development by practicing positive parenting skills.

She shares that this includes educational support, intervention, and preventative activities and services that provide children, youth, and families the opportunity to interact, learn life skills, and to develop the ability to cope with life challenges.

With DYS having the responsibility to reduce and eradicate child abuse, neglect, juvenile delinquency and youth violence, Sablan noted that healthy child development through positive parenting intervention is a preventative measure that the agency uses to improve child protection, better foster care and juvenile probation when there is trouble within the home.

One of these measures includes the CNMI Parent Anonymous Program, which DYS received a two-year re-accreditation and final certification for three new PA facilitators making the CNMI one of the first organizations to meet re-accreditation requirements.

The PA program is a network of parents sharing responsibility, building partnerships, and transforming their attitudes to form new behaviors for positive change in the home.

Sablan expressed that parent leaders must play an active role and continue to network with other parents for the strengthening of families.

With this and many outreach and grant-based programs, DYS has seen a significant decrease in youth delinquencies while strengthening ties at home.

Over the years, DYS was able to provide interventions, counseling and court hearing support for over 240 children who suffered from child abuse and/or neglect.

With over 200 children to assist, the agency's Child Protective Unit was also awarded $6,000 in Victims of Crime (VOCA) funds through the Criminal Justice Planning Agency CJPA to assist with victim services.

In the later part of 2015, DYS was able to reach out to over 400 children with 201 cases involving emotional, physical and sexual abuse, neglect, minor sex trafficking, domestic violence, and teen pregnancy with remaining seeking support services.

The agency was also awarded a grant for the shelter building expansion project last May.

Sablan noted that DYS might begin utilizing the new Emergency Shelter funded by the Community Development Block Grant through the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. for $279,825.

Following Typhoon Soudelor, the agency's 24/7 emergency shelter assisted clients who experienced increasing difficulties within the home and were removed due to imminent danger.

DYS opened its doors to 59 cases of both males and females during that period.

The foster care program also saw a reduction in cases and was able to exit one of six females to a foster home, while funding was approved for the Juvenile Probation Unit for $14,000 for the fiscal year towards 384 juvenile delinquents.

Currently, DYS sub-grants the Community Action Agency program under the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services for eligible agencies to provide and coordinate education and training services to help low-income families gain education and career skills.

This led to three non-profit organizations submitting their proposal for FY 2015-2016 Community Services Block Grant CAA sub-grant award to the Commonwealth Women's Association, the CHCC Cancer Association and the Humanities Council.

A total of $70,000 went to the CNMI Women's Association to administer programs and services to assist the low-income population on Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

Since then, Sablan adds DYS periodically monitors and provides the necessary technical support for the CWA to accomplish performance targets. It has referred 13 residents to the Northern Marianas Trades Institute and 101 residents to Workforce Empowerment Training.

For more information on the Division of Youth Services or assistance, call 664-2550/51. ***(PR)***

COLLISSION FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Best Sunshine International, Ltd.'s Nissan Quest and a Toyota Prius both sustain damage after a collision in front of Nutrition Assistance Program office at the JTV Building in As Lito Monday morning. No one was injured and traffic police is still investigating who was at fault in the accident. It was drizzling that morning.

Pacific Community calls for greater efforts to close gender gaps

NOUMEA, New Caledonia—Leadership, wage gaps, safety, health, and care work are five areas of gender disparity in the Pacific islands region that require innovative action given their profound effects on societies and individuals.

That is the message from the Pacific Community (SPC) as the region marked International Women's Day last March 8.

In line with the international theme for the day "Pledge for Parity," SPC is calling for greater debate on ways of closing gender gaps in the Pacific and concrete ways of addressing them.

Despite critical advances, Pacific women and girls are still faced with cultural, social, economic and institutional barriers to developing their full potential, according to a progress report on implementing the Beijing Platform for Action released by SPC in 2015.

"The Pacific Community is committed to ensuring that Pacific people benefit from sustainable economic development, are empowered and live long and healthy lives, regardless of their gender," Pacific Community Director-General Dr. Colin Tukuitonga said.

"Parity should be promoted at all levels and in all sectors, from public governance to changing nappies.

"From local contexts to the international arena, Pacific women and men are hard at work to shape more egalitarian societies and their efforts should continue to be acknowledged and supported through responsive policies and programs.

"To see Hilda Heine's election as President of the Republic of Marshall Islands, which represented the first election of a female head of state in a Pacific Island country, and the recent appointment of Fiame Naomi Mata'afa as Samoa's first female deputy prime minister is extremely encouraging.

"We also need to look at risks Pacific people face from a gender perspective, from non-communicable diseases to women's unacceptable exposure to domestic violence or men's vulnerability to road injuries, because those risks stem from the roles and attitudes expected from men and women," Tukuitonga added.

Data shows that diabetes prevalence in the Pacific Island region is higher among women than men, with the exception of Solomon Islands and Niue, according to the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health.

The region-wide epidemic of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) is aggravating the burden of care that women already face, with evidence of women leaving the workforce to provide full-time care to family members.

The resulting social, cultural and economic impacts on the lives of women and their families are staggering, and are likely to challenge some of the progress made on women's advancement. ***(SPC)***

43K seedlings provided to help devastated communities get back on their feet

LAUTOKA, Fiji—An initial 43,000 fruit and vegetable seedlings have been made immediately available by the Pacific Community (SPC) and the European Union (EU) to assist with the Fijian government's nation-wide disaster relief and recovery effort, following the devastation caused by tropical cyclone Winston.

The seedlings, including cabbage, tomatoes, eggplant, capsicum, and papaya, are being provided by SPC-EU joint initiative, 'Improvement of Key Services to Agriculture (IKSA)' project.

The Lautoka-based initiative was established in 2013 to help alleviate poverty for the most vulnerable groups, mainly famers in the sugarcane region of Fiji, by supplementing their incomes through the production and sale of horticultural crops.

"The IKSA project offers a practical rapid response to the food security needs of many citizens affected by tropical cyclone Winston," said EU Ambassador to Fiji and the Pacific, Andrew Jacobs. ''As fresh food become scarce in the coming days, it is important that farming communities continue to access a range of nutritious, healthy food and this project will attempt to address this.''

Pacific Community Director-General Dr. Colin Tukuitonga said, "SPC stands ready to utilize the scientific and technical expertise at our disposal to lend a helping hand and reinforce the Fiji Government's capacity in its hour of need."

"As the full impact of cyclone Winston continues to unfold, the provision of seedlings is one immediate way we can support the Ministry of Agriculture to address food security during this time. We expect to make available a further 205,000 seedlings, which will include 1,000 tissue cultured plantlets of sweet potato from our Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees (CePaCT), in the next six to seven weeks," Tukuitonga added.

The category five cyclone—described as the Southern Hemisphere's most destructive on record—has so far claimed over 40 lives, destroyed whole communities, and crippled the agriculture sector, which supports the livelihoods of thousands of people and is a major source of revenue for the Pacific Island nation.

Scientific and technical personnel based across a number of SPC's programs including disaster reduction, land resources and water and sanitation are currently on hand to provide specialized assistance to the Fiji government through its National Disaster Management Office. ***(SPC)***

Opinion

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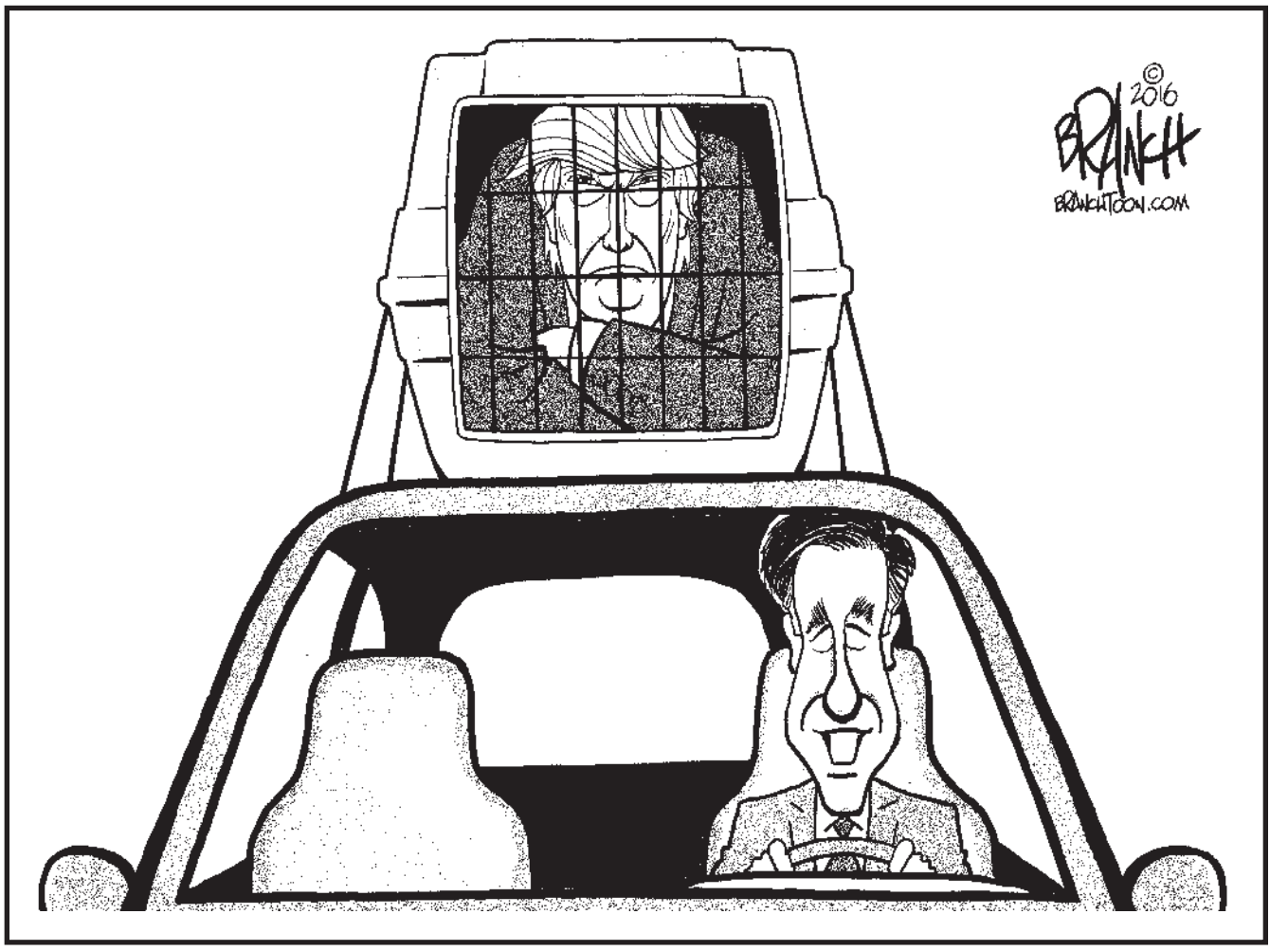

All Americans in one America—remembering the territories and commonwealths

By DONALD J. TRUMP
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Donald J. Trump is seeking the Republican Party's nomination for the 2016 Presidential elections.

Throughout the history of our nation, the patriotism exhibited by our brothers and sisters in the territories of American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands has often gone unacknowledged. Year after year, these citizens quietly, without fanfare, send more of their sons and daughters per capita into the U.S. Armed Services than any of the 50 states. All Americans should stand in awe of this commitment to the service of our nation. Geographically, the territories and commonwealths, especially those in the Pacific, are vitally important to our national security as the outer most line of defense against potential encroachment by foreign powers.

Circumstances for Americans are precarious, at best, right now due to the inattention to the will of the people by our elected representatives in Washington. For too long we have put our faith in those who are supposed to represent and do the will of the people. Unfortunately special interests have taken over our government and this has left the American people without voice. Hopefully, my candidacy and Presidency will change that. No more will those who reside in the territories or commonwealths be ignored. We will negotiate trade arrangements with their input, enact labor policies that help—not hurt—their unique economies and we will initiate immigration protocols that will build their communities, not tear them apart.

I am saddened to hear that every day, more and more citizens in the territories and commonwealths are leaving their families and homes because the healthcare and educational systems are inadequate. Medical care in the American territories and commonwealths has historically lagged far behind the continental states, and Obamacare has only made the situation worse. Good health is an essential part of a thriving society and economy, and citizens of the Territories and Commonwealths deserve policies that work.

If I am honored to earn the votes of the people of the United States, territories, and Commonwealths during the presidential primary process and am elected to serve, I will restore equality and fairness to all citizens, especially those that have been ignored for too long. As part of my administration, I will appoint a Territory and Commonwealth Advisory Committee (TCAC) consisting of representatives from American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The TCAC will be integrated into my Presidential Transition Team, and be tasked with performing a holistic review of all federal regulations affecting the Territories and Commonwealths. Once sworn into office, I will appoint a Special Assistant to the President responsible for day-to-day interaction with the Territories and Commonwealths. This position would be the direct connection for the Office of Insular Affairs and the citizens of the Territories and Commonwealths.

All Americans in the states, territories and commonwealths will need to come together to fix all that is broken. I am confident, however, that together we can "Make America Great Again."

Secret societies

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

The elite in the Philippines were the Ilustrados, Spanish for "erudite" and "learned." They were educated Filipinos (since '64, Filipino became the language and Pilipino refers to the people), Jose Rizal numbering among them.

For the Spaniards earlier, their Ilustrado position derived from their proximity to the Spanish throne. Those called "Filipinos" were not the indigenes of the archipelago but the subjects of Señor Felipe de la España; the indigenes who wore the title remained indios, with the telling small letter "i." The indigenes took the name as a nationalist title after Bonifacio, later universally across newly independent Philippines.

Before then, indigene forces gave Spain the run for their money through the dynamic of an illustrious society in the Kataastaasang Kagalang-galangang Katipunan ng mga Anak ng Bayan (KKK). Marcos tried to replace the word "Pilipino" with an illustrious word, Maharlika (mahal na likha), but it did not hold. To this day, the country and the people are known as subjects del Señor Felipe de la España!

The Illuminati (plural of illuminatus, "enlightened") was an Enlightenment secret society started in Bavaria whose goals was to oppose the obscurantist leftover of superstitious beliefs that influenced public life and controlled state power, including the established Christian churches. Thirty members of a Bohemian hunting secret society were with Scalia at the event where he died in his sleep; the rich European members were ideologically sympathetic to the Justice.

Freemasonry and other secret societies, joined the Illuminati, outlawed by the reigning Monarchs with the encouragement and blessings of the Roman Catholic Church, vilified by conservative critics as the root cause of the French Revolution.

Thus, secret societies were the form of innovative organizations outside established networks, and they flourished in the last two centuries as the participatory ethos of democracy took hold of the political process.

In the balancing drive of the yin-yang, the nature of societies were not originally secret but more clannish in the patrilineal tradition since Kongzi (Confucius) articulated the value of the family as a model for social and political order. The royals adopted the Confucian teachings as normative and for more than 2,000 years, the model offered social stability as it was ethical and prescriptive. Conflict came in the turnover of dynasties.

Favoring of the male of the specie, the Chinese female is married to the male's family, and though she retains the use of her family name, all offspring follow the male's clan name. The Chinese surname, like the rest of Sinosphere, is a status symbol, once distinguished whether it was from a clan or deriving from a lineage, thereby, more important to the elitist pretentions more than the value of its identification function.

Wang proliferates in China, Kim names a fourth of Korea, North and South. What's in a name? A lot. The West is addicted to time; the East honors name.

China had Tong, their secret societies. The Tongmenghui, aka the "Chinese United League, United League, Chinese Revolutionary Alliance, Chinese Alliance and United Allegiance Society" merger, stayed underground to resists the late Qing dynasty, founded by the renowned nationalist Sun Yat-sen in Tokyo 1905. This unification effort of revolutionary groups set the pattern for Chinese Associations in many Chinatowns.

The illustrado, illuminati, and the Tongmenghui were secret societies spawned when common folks resisted a ruling elite, providing identification and strength of motivation for many to pursue their personal and social interests.

In my late teen world, I joined the Jacques DeMolay fraternity of the Freemasons, and then moved to the United States where I ran into a racist DeMolay chapter in Ohio. I was flabbergasted to discover that what was a liberal group among friends in Manila was narrow-minded in Ohio. That's when I realized that the nature of secret societies is to perpetuate its native prejudices and the freemasons of America reflected the lily-white prejudice of the place and people.

There is something comforting about the immediate bonding that results when fellow members in a secret society discover each other in unfamiliar settings. Instantly, a stranger becomes "Brod" or "Sis," and that's just at the gate.

The camaraderie also lends itself to an easy network of corrupt practices (300,000 in China convicted of corruption lately), as those of the same in-group often are defensive of each other's interest for the general protection of all. There is a vague dividing line in the conduct of public office between private and public interest, a disruptive influence.

Secret societies spawn small groups that are the active ingredients of participatory democracy, but its secretive nature runs counter to the openness that characterizes the need for widespread involvement, a paradox that bedevils existing secret societies.

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The price of overdevelopment

By GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan is the CNMI's delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives

I write this in my personal capacity as a concerned citizen.

I am uneasy about the economic path we have embarked upon in the Northern Marianas. When I look carefully at the many changes taking place so rapidly in our community, and when I consider the path that lies ahead, I worry.

After years of what seemed like economic free fall, the Commonwealth is now awash in money. We do not know where all of it is coming from—and a few people are profiting far more handsomely than most. Ethical lines—the boundaries between business interests and public service—have begun to blur.

And the local economy appears to be overheating. Land is being grabbed up by a handful of corporations and major developments are in various stages of promise, planning, or construction

A $10-billion casino resort on Rota. A $7-billion casino resort on Saipan. Three new casino resorts on Tinian valued at $4 billion, $1.2 billion, and $300 million, respectively. A $675-million sky bridge linking Tinian to Saipan. A $130-million resort in San Antonio, a $46-million hotel on Capitol Hill, a $50-million transformation of a derelict hotel in Achugao into yet another gaming resort, a $30-million renovation for a cruise ship resort in San Roque.

We are talking about a lot of money. By comparison, consider the Wharf revitalization project underway in Washington, D.C. Located on prime real estate in one of the most expensive cities in the nation, the redevelopment project spans 27 acres of land and 50 acres of water, and encompasses plans for a vibrant, world-class, waterfront community with office spaces, residential condos and apartments, hotels, restaurants, shops, entertainment, and many other amenities.

The Wharf project, as grand and elegant as it is, is valued at $2 billion.

The projects proposed for the Northern Marianas that I have mentioned are together valued at an astounding $23 billion.

And we must ask ourselves, what does that really mean for us? Do we even need $23 billion? To what end? At what price?

How much development is enough for us?

We may be on the verge of another economic boom, but it is on a scale unlike anything we have seen before in the Northern Marianas. We should not delude ourselves into thinking that we will be able to absorb $23 billion without fundamentally and forever changing who we are as a people, as a community. And the change, I fear, will not be for the better.

I worry that we are ill prepared to manage the consequences of so much development. Our environment, our infrastructure, our water resources, our law enforcement, hospital, schools, and social services—can barely accommodate the development we have now.

We are already being told we do not have a sufficient labor pool to support this economic revival. Some business interests and political leaders insist that the Commonwealth will need to import 12,000-35,000 workers far into the future. This translates into a staggering total population growth of 22-65 percent from today.

To fill all the rooms in all the existing and proposed hotels at maximum capacity, the Commonwealth would have to bring in 2 million visitors a year. We would have to rebuild to expand the airports, and dramatically upgrade our water, wastewater, and power utilities.

Can our islands, our infrastructure and our resources, really sustain that many more people? Can our way of life endure and adapt to accommodate the changes?

I think we need to pause. I think we need time to breathe a little, and reflect on the future we are creating—to look around and take in the present landscape, and look ahead at the horizon for the long view.

What really matters to us, the people of the Northern Marianas? To me, it is family. It is decent jobs and honest work so that we can support our families. It is opportunities for our children to pursue a high quality education and realize their dreams. It is having places of sanctuary, beauty, and history so that we can enjoy our time with our families, and our visitors can enjoy time with theirs. It is a safe and healthy community for us all.

To others, it may mean something different. But if economic development does not reflect our values as a community, or bring us closer to the quality of life we desire for ourselves and our families, then why are we doing it? If the development is not for us, then what—or whom—is it for?

I do not pretend to have all the answers. But I think it is important to ask these questions and begin to have a truthful conversation with each other about where we are headed as a commonwealth. If it is not a direction we want, then we must speak up and change course. Easier said than done, I know—but the consequences of doing nothing may be much, much worse.

At the end of the day, these islands, our families, and our sense of place in the world are all that we have—and all that truly matter.

Asuntun Sueddu

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune*.*

Asuntun sueddu dos klase guaha: miniumum wage yan living wage. I finenina kuantu un` gagana gi ora, i segundu mapisu gi gastun linala`.

Kuantu sueddo-mu gi ora lamayot patte mau`udai gi kualifikasion yan eksperiensia-mu. `An magradua hau gi kolehu mas dañkulu chansa-mu masueddu guaguan. Yangin settefikun high school solu, pues menos ke ayu i magradua gi kolehu.

I segundu na modun sueddu suffisiente apas-mu deste tutuhon. Kontodu para guma`, kareta yan nesessidat familia siha libianu` un` kubre (living wage). Mauleg na modu lau inipos guaguan para parehu ha` praibet yan gobietnu. Pot ihemplu, achog pa`gu hau makone` macho`chu` debi un` ma-apase ti menos ke $14 pesus gi ora. I sueddo-mu ennau i $30,000 gi sakan.

I segundu modun sueddu mas guaguan gi siuda siha `nai tatkilu` i gastun lina`la`. Guine, guaguaña gastun lina`la` ke iya Tokyo! Rason? Todu nesessidat-ta debi uma-inkatga ginen hiyuñg. Lau makat na attikulu pot popble ekonomian i tanu`.

Este i sueddu mauleg ta komprende na i gobietnu para mangasta aduana (taxes) ni finatinas i bisnis siha. I komunidan bisnis primera checho`ña i para u famatinas ganansia. Mampos pa`gu chafleg este na patte gi ekonomia-ta. Ayu na kara` i kahan iya Marianas.

Sensian Hinimidde

Guaha dos lugat ni numana`e-yu` hinimidde kada hu bisita. Era i hatdin `sino gualu` yan kanton tasi. Sige hu ebalua haf` na taiguine sentimentog-hu gi kada mattu-yu` gi dos lugat. Sumen na ma`agem na siñiente antes de biradan i gima`.

Guiya este na plaset `nai kanaha` todu familia fumatoigue deste antigu na tiempu. Poresu na mafatu sensian katma yan hinimidde sa` tafachuchu`e i mana` gasgas yan matanumen gualu` familia. Entalu` che`chu` gualu` man-hanau hit dispues mantalaya, chenchulu `sino peskan fisga.

Huñgan, malofan-yu` guine na chalan antes. Tat hobensitu ti sumaunau solamiente pot mantension familia. I kinisecha ta agradese sa` ginen masahalom-ta. Tafachuchu`e ayu mina` taya` lastima gi chinile`ta ginen lamasan sena.

Mantomtum i mañaina-ta gi planun haf` na golai yan gulusina para u fan matanum. Ayu fine`nina i chadeg makusecha yan fahna. I pumalu mangaige gi oriya tat kumu sune, choda, kamute, dagu, yan otru siha agu`un haya. Man-mauleg na sensian kilisyanu gi oran kinisecha sa` mana` fan mañage lokue` i bisinu. Estague` sumimientu hihot na relasion gi halom natibu.

Magahet na i dinimandan modetnu na modun linala`ta fumunas i hagas kustumbren i señgsoñg `nai ta chule` dididi` kinisecha ya tana`e i bisinu. Lokue`, maliñgu ayu i, "Tan Maria, ilegña si nana-hu chage dididi` este i kamute" pat platun guihan. Estague` kase mina` mafatu hinimidde giya guahu, un` kustumbreta ni esta mafnas lau hagas hayu-ta.

Probleman Sanhalum

Mampos man-diskuidau man-ma`gas iya Marianas gi bandan moneda. Kara i gobietnu lau mampos mañgontentu kulan mohon machuchuda` salape gi kaha. Diberas, husga kabales haf` magahet i kondision fondu guine. Kanaha` todu operasion yan obligasion man-ma`apasen tiau.

Kulan lokue` patte gi kutturan man-ma`gas na gigon matompu` Marianas man-esalau na para umana` guaha negosiu yan federat pot relasion. Haf` na relasion in` sasañgan? I kara` kahan iya Marianas ni sen taya` animum miyu umaregla? Manu `nai gaige i bibu na makinan casino kau ha kubre i ma-ekspepekta na ayudun fondu?

Dimas de uma-attende i didog na probleman i tanu` tinane` mañgarera hiyuñg Marianas. Unu kumekuentus pot ti pettinente na asuntu mientras i otru mañoda` eskusuña gi usun nuebu na palabra. Dios mihu! Gaige dichu problema gi tanu`! Siña mañagan ñaihon hamyu ya in` aregla i primera fatsu? Haf` na para tasosogne federat lau hita muna` kara` i kahan iya Marianas?

Dispues duru man-esalau pot negosiun politika. Man-malefa na petmanente i relasion entalu` Marianas yan America? Taya` siña tumulaika i lai federat `nai gaige i kontrata fuera ke Kongresson iya America. Ti mapot este na asuntu fuera ke tahatme franelan tatamudu kadu` ta komprende i tita komprende na asuntu. Dios mihu!

Taitai haf` i kontrata hasasañgan yan haf` ti hasañgan ni ti hasañgan. `An ti un` kumomprende gi primet biahe, chage tumaitai i matranslada na materiat gi finu` Chamorro.

Lamayot patte na mampos chatsaga kinalamten i tanu` sa` i mangaige gi imperadot hegsu` I Deni duru manlosus dimas de u maprekura usun kabilosu yan menhalom na pinetsige para umaprebeniye ausiliu gi publiku! Na` mamahlau este na che`chu` ignorante `sino diskuidu dispues de todu i promesan promesa pot ayudu.

Megai besis `nai hu faisen maisayu` kau guahu ti kumomprende i asuntu? Lau `nai hu lilli`e sapet na modun linala` gi tautau siha, haf` taimanuyu` lache `nai kontodu guahu mafafaisen haf` na taiguine na te`ug diskuidu guaha? Pot fabot fañgalamten sa` i diskuidun chinatsaga gaige hale`ña gi manadan plinantan miyu diskuidu!

Pot Kutturan Natibu

Entalu` este yan Guahan, dañkulu na inatisa pot kutturan Chamorro deste dandan, baila, sakman, kagumañg kontodu hagmañg.

Mientras machochoneg usun liñguahe sige hit man-finu` Eñglis. Deste oga`an esta i oran maigu` diariu man-finu` lagu i natibu.

I hale` yan troñkun kutturan natibu gaige tutuhoña gi halom gima`ta. Deste liñguahe yan todu finana`guen kustumbre debi u tutuhongue` ginen halom guma`.

Pot ihemplo: Yangin un` finu` Chamoruye famaguon-mu siempre umatuñgu` liñguahen niha ya ma-usa diariamente. Todu finanague-mu siempre umakomprende deste ineyag luma`la`, espirituat, unestu yan yine`ase` gi otru. Siempre u fañetun giya siha. I mapraktika dispues de madiñgu pettan sanme`na ginen finanague-mu. Los uttimus, siha espehos-mu gi komunida.

I familia i mas metgot na pisun maseha manu na komunida gi enteru elmundu. Gaige guennau i hale` yan troñkun primet finana`gue gi famaguon-ta.

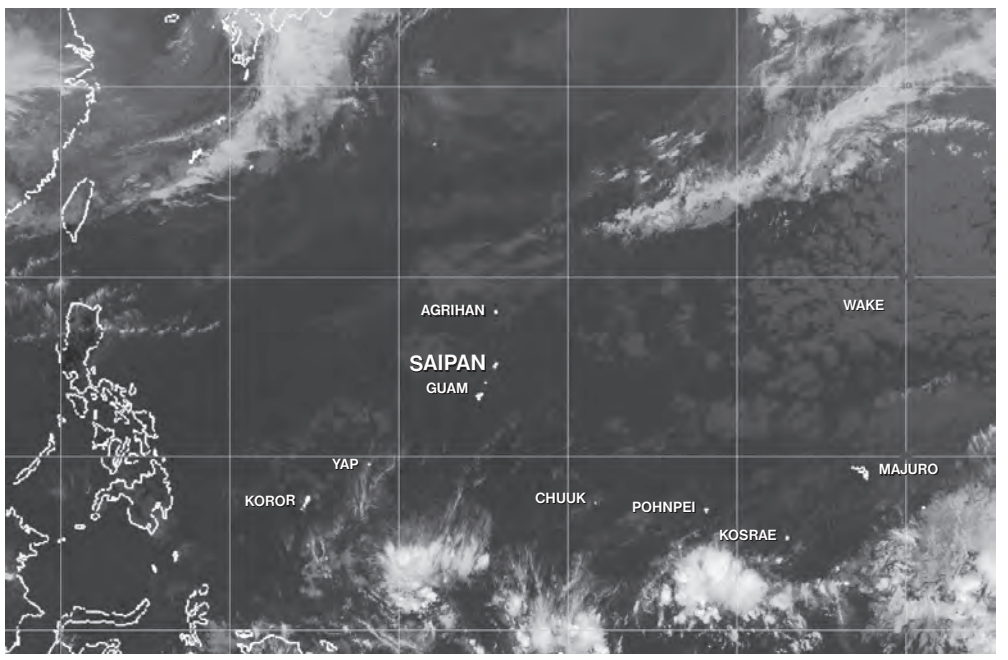
Yangin para ta añgoghu halom kuatton eskuela pues ala kuenta ta transfere obligasionta guatu gi maestro yan maestra siha. Ti dinanche este na hinassu. Hagu ni saina gai responsablidat futtunan patgon-mu. Manteni fitme obligasion saina ya un` esgaihon famaguon-mu mismu. Hagu ha` solu siña lumimienda siakassu na guaha chinatsagaña ennau na patgon.

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.
▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 PM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from northwest of Wake Island 25N163E to near Agrihan at 18N146E then meanders as a weak shear line to 16N136E. Scattered showers are along and up to 100 miles northwest of the cold front while clouds and patchy rain are along and up to 150 miles northwest of the shear line. Scattered showers are also west of Saipan between 17N and 15N from 141E to 144E. A trade-wind disturbance southeast of Koror is causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms within 100 miles of 3N142E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Pohnpei and Kosrae within 90 miles of a line from 3N157E to 1N163E. A tropical disturbance is centered east of Butaritari at 3N174E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southeast of Majuro and across Tarawa are south of 6N from 170E to 180. An unstable flow is causing extensive cloudiness and patchy showers in a large area between Wake Island and Midway Island northeast of 17N to beyond 25N from 160E to 180.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲90	▼79
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼78
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼80
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼81

Around the Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼68
Beijing	Sunny	▲48	▼22
Hong Kong	Rain	▲59	▼49
Honolulu	Windy	▲75	▼67
London	Cloudy	▲49	▼33
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲75	▼54
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲93	▼73
Melbourne	Rain	▲75	▼65
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼71
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼58
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲50	▼41
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲52	▼38
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲49	▼27
Rome	Showers	▲58	▼42
Salem	Rain	▲58	▼47
San Francisco	Showers	▲65	▼56
Seoul	Sunny	▲41	▼24
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲51	▼38
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲79	▼56

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- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:31 AM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.1 Feet
8:43 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
2:57 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
8:43 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:28 AM	6:26 PM
Friday	6:28 AM	6:27 PM
Saturday	6:27 AM	6:27 PM
Sunday	6:27 AM	6:27 PM
Monday	6:27 AM	6:27 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:11 AM	7:39 PM
Friday	8:01 AM	8:40 PM
Saturday	8:52 AM	9:41 PM
Sunday	9:43 AM	10:41 PM
Monday	10:36 AM	11:41 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 1, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	Daily via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/193	8:40am	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR
UA2928/183	6:05pm	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2928/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2928/193	6:05pm	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2926/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM
UA2926/191	9:50pm	9:00am+1	3, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2927	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2927	10:00am	5:35pm	3 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/2925	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA192/2920	10:20pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA192/2927	10:20pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA192/2929	10:20pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

MVA, Delta host more Japan travel agents

In a continuing bid to revitalize visitor arrivals from Japan, the Marianas Visitors Authority and Delta Air Lines hosted a second round of travel trade FAM tours targeting wholesalers in the country from Feb. 27 to March 1.

The FAM tours are one of the proposals made in a December 2015 meeting on Saipan between CNMI officials, tourism industry leaders, and Delta management.

"We're pleased to host a second group of key industry planners from Japan and to see the discussions we had in December with Delta being put into action," said MVA Marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "Japan is still a very important market for NMI tourism, and we will continue to work closely with Delta and our other airline partners to maintain and reboot the market." The group included planners from JTB World Vacations, KNT Individual Tour, ST World, Tabikobo, Delta, and MVA's Japan office. The FAM tour conducted site inspections at hotels and various tourist attractions. They lodged at Mariana Resort & Spa during their visit. The first FAM tour visited in January 2016 and included representatives of JTB World Vacations, H.I.S., R&C Tours, Delta, and the MVA's Japan office. A third group is scheduled for later this month. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Representatives of JTB World Vacations, KNT Individual Tour, ST World, Tabikobo, Delta Air Lines, and the Marianas Visitors Authority's Japan office visit Bird Island Lookout in February 2016.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Representatives of JTB World Vacations, KNT Individual Tour, ST World, Tabikobo, Delta Air Lines, and the Marianas Visitors Authority's Japan office visit the hidden pool at Forbidden Island beach in February 2016, as part of a FAM tour organized by MVA and Delta to help increase travel from Japan to the Northern Mariana Islands.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Max Goto of Hyatt Regency Saipan addresses representatives of JTB World Vacations, KNT Individual Tour, ST World, Tabikobo, Delta Air Lines, and the Marianas Visitors Authority's Japan office during a hotel inspection in February 2016. The visit to Hyatt and other hotels was part of a FAM tour organized by MVA and Delta to help increase travel from Japan to the Northern Mariana Islands.

MCS Class of 2006 to hold 'A Knight of Music & Memory'

» Fundraiser to benefit school's music program

The Mount Carmel graduating class of 2006 is celebrating its 10-year reunion by keeping music alive at their alma mater.

The MCS Class of 2006 will be holding two events this year to help stock Mount Carmel with musical instruments.

The first event will be a happy hour fundraiser at Naked Fish Bar & Grill on Saturday, March 19. Tickets are $20 and include a free drink. There will also be live music and raffle drawings throughout the night.

The second event will be an instrument drive where people can drop off new and used instruments to be donated.

This philanthropy is close to their hearts being a class comprised of numerous musicians who have gone on to use their talents to entertain and educate.

For more information on tickets for the event, contact John Del Rosario at 483-5646. ***(PR)***

Guam lawmaker introduces resolution to help veterans

Guam Sen. Frank F. Blas Jr. has introduced a resolution seeking federal legislation that would give a helping hand to veterans living in Guam and other geographically disadvantaged areas.

Resolution No. 302-33 was co-sponsored by Sens. V. Anthony Ada, Frank Blas Aguon Jr., and Thomas C. Ada. The bipartisan resolution urges Congress to introduce and adopt legislation that would create a special category that provides increased compensation for our veterans.

"The current level of service rendered by the federal government to our veterans is not only a disservice to the American veterans who chose to reside in Guam and other geographically challenged regions such as the CNMI, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshal Islands, and American Samoa, but a disservice to all those American veterans who have fought for our freedom," Blas said. "Although for many years our region's veterans have waited patiently for the treatment and services afforded to their comrades elsewhere, their patience should no longer be taken for granted."

Ada, a U.S. Army veteran, further stated that these regions have men and women who have dedicated their lives to United States of America. He said, "Our men and women have given unselfishly and patriotically of themselves so that we can enjoy the freedoms we have today. Although we will never have the opportunity to repay those who have gone before us the debt we owe for their ultimate sacrifice, we can begin to make good for those who are still with us."

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs provides monthly benefits to veterans in recognition of the effects of disabilities, diseases, or injuries incurred or aggravated during active military service. The compensation is a tax-free monetary benefit paid to veterans with disabilities and the benefit amount is graduated according to the degree of the veteran's disability rating on a scale from 10 percent to 100 percent (in increments of 10 percent). Compensation may also be paid for disabilities that are considered related or secondary to disabilities occurring in service and for disabilities presumed to be related to circumstances of military service, even though they may arise after service. Generally, the degrees of disability rating specified are also designed to compensate for considerable loss of working time from exacerbations or illnesses.

Blas noted that since 1988, Guam has been classified as a medically underserved area by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Blas added that "this classification recognizes that our healthcare system does not have the ability and full capability of meeting our island's healthcare needs. While the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has taken great strides to increase and improve the services for veterans, many of these services are not available in our region and for this reason our veterans often have to travel by air, thousands of miles from their homes, to obtain their medical assistance from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs."

Aguon, who is presently a lieutenant colonel with the Guam Air National Guard, said "although their treatment and even airfare is funded by the U.S. government, there are numerous other costs associated with obtaining off-island medical treatment while maintaining their residences on their islands. While generally the disability rating that a veteran receives is tied to the mental or physical disability he suffers from, the time difference and distance that a veteran from our region has to travel to access services should be recognized as an additional factor that the veteran has to contend with."

Blas said that as a result of the concerns expressed by the senators, most especially the financial burden uniquely facing our veterans, "we are urging Congress to introduce legislation that would allow for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to include an additional percentage to their determined benefit amount in order to compensate our veterans for the costs associated with obtaining treatment that is routinely available for all other U.S. veterans not living in geographically-disadvantaged areas."

Blas adds that the legislation should include language that ensures that veterans who later relocate away from their previously geographically disadvantaged area will no longer receive the additional benefit.

The idea for the legislation was discussed by the four sponsors with Karen Gooden, director of the Honolulu Regional Office for the VA's Veterans Benefits Administration, during her recent visit to the island. Blas and Aguon presented the idea to Virginia Congressman Rob Wittman and Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo during the congressman's visit to Guam. Furthermore, Blas briefed various executive branch officials from the CNMI, Palau, and the FSM while participating in the Micronesian Chief's Executive Summit held in Palau last month. "I am very encouraged with the positive feedback from every official I pitched the idea to," Blas stated. Blas went on to say, "While I recognize that the resolution still has to deliberated and adopted in the Guam Legislature, I have received assurances from Congresswoman Bordallo that she will work closely with us to address this matter."

For more information, contact Sen. Frank F. Blas, Jr., at 687-1483 or via email at frank.blasjr@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

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Dorel 5 Shelf Bookcase $45.95

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Kingsford 15.41LB Charcoal $16.95

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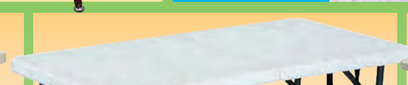
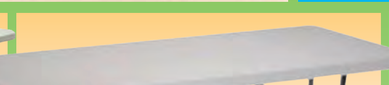


HONG MA 4 FEET FOLDING TABLE $35.95

HONG MA 5 FEET TABLE $44.95



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‘Konferencian Dinana Islas Marianas’ set for Pagan this summer

“Konferencian Dinana Islas Marianas” slated for Pagan this summer gains full steam with the formation of a local ad hoc steering group working in tandem with Guam AMIM planning group, according to Northern Islands Mayor Jerome Kaipat Aldan.

Aldan made the announcement following a meeting Friday with the mayors and members of the respective municipal councils of Rota, Tinian, and Saipan at the second floor of the Saipan Mayor’s conference room.

Aldan is Konferencia host of the first historic gathering of Dinana Islas Marianas on Pagan Island. Konferencia is unlike other forums, for it serves as a vehicle or a process aimed at inspiring aspirational conversations in re-awakening and re-connecting the islands’ ancestral heritage seemingly separated by geography, distance and historical circumstances or anomalies, and re-bonding the indigenous people of Islas Sinahi Pacifico in the Marianas together in fellowship from Guam to Farallon de Pajaros.

Islas Sinahi Pacifico (translated crescent islands of peace) typifies the geographic formation of the Marianas chain of islands shaped like a crescent moon, its geographic shape likely giving the island chain its geneological identity Islas Sinahi Pacifico, or the Cresent Islands of Peace.

Konferencia as a process aims at forging re-acquaintances throughout the chain, by sharing know-how and local resources in different media forms, accessing host cultural features represented, for instance, in cultural chant, traditional herbal practice, belief and folklore, anthem, language, tradition and custom, values, arts and art forms, inter-/intra-bartering, trade and commerce geared toward greater fresh and wholesome organic local food production and value-added food products using science and technology, harnessing human capital resources through traditional cultural education complemented in formal setting including higher education, and tradition, in the process recognizing inter-/intra-island barriers and forging common remedies beneficial to the people of the Marianas that leads to greater sustainability of the CNMI’s limited island resource base.

Areas of interest for the konferencia is also on “i familia” as in genealogical tracing of ancestral roots. For instance, there will be reflections on the implications of various archaeological findings throughout the Marianas actively shared by outside scientists covering the farthest northern tip of the Marianas crescent to the southern tip of the chain, aimed at establishing genealogical linkages, for instance, with early carbon-dated settlements in Pagan during 1321 in Regusa, Pagan. Part of konferencia includes a study tour to Pagan’s earliest settlement in at Regusa Village laced with lattes today carbon dated to the 1300s.

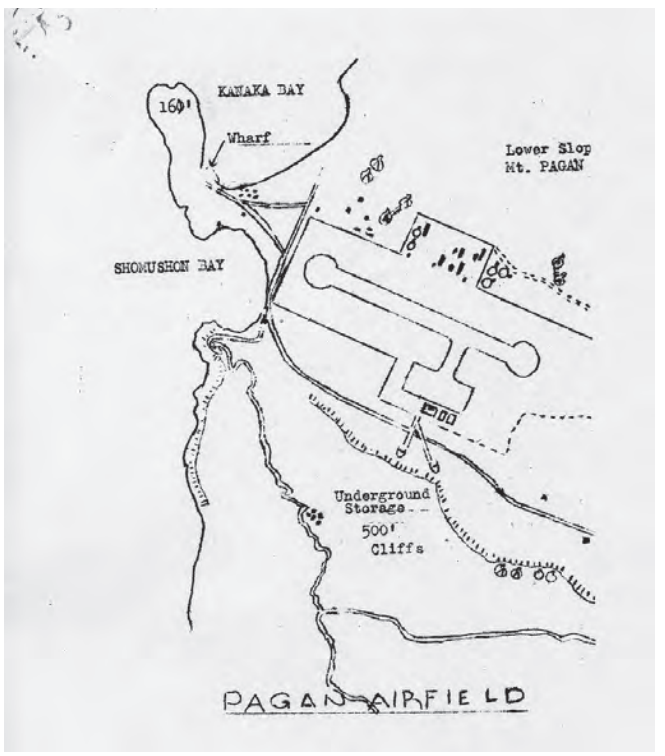
The one-and-a-half-day Pagan konferencia in mid-June follows two weeks after Guam’s 2016 Festival of Pacific Arts (FESTPAC) in Guam this year. Because of limited accommodation, konferencia is limited to 100 participants based on published criteria, one of which requires the participant to dedicate at least 50 hours of storytelling to others at home, at school, in the community, and with diaspora communities about konferencia in Pagan.

The local ad hoc steering group lending helping hands to the host mayor consists of former councilman Diego Kaipat, local traditional historian on ancient relics John Castro, Sakman Canoe builder Pete Perez, and members of the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council Tonie M. Tudela, Alice S. Igitol, and Reina C. Camacho.

Last Friday’s meeting with CNMI municipal mayors and elected council members was convened following earlier meetings convened by Aldan with potential local partners in government and non-government sectors, including regulatory and destination promotion agencies, a local college environmental group, and a host of private-sector sponsors and interests.

The Sakman that just arrived in Guam from San Diego, California to participate in the Guam FESTPAC will join Guam Tasi Seafarers thread the Marianas waters en-route to Pagan ahead of the pilgrimage.

Aldan sees that the konferencia will play out in sync with a vision for Gani Islands re-settlement and re-development in the overriding effort ”to promote, preserve and apply traditional knowledge, innovation, expressions and practices of indigenous traditional culture and increase understanding of this chain of islands in the Pacific.” Aldan emphasized the importance of experiencing the Marianas’ last frontier in Pagan’s in its pristine natural setting. ***(PR)***



Pre-war Pagan bunker hangar. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Regusa town on right view.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Aerial photo of Pagan during World War II

Pagan’s pre-war agriculture was destroyed by aerial bombardment. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

United faces battle with unhappy investors over board seats

NEW YORK (AP)—United Continental Holdings faces a battle with disgruntled shareholders over the direction of the company just as its CEO returns from a five-month absence during which he received a heart transplant.

In a surprise move Tuesday morning, Altimeter Capital Management and PAR Capital Management made a public pitch to add six of their own nominees to the board. The two investment firms own a combined 7 percent stake in United Continental, the parent of United Airlines.

Brad Gerstner, CEO of Altimeter Capital, said in a statement that investors are "greatly disappointed with United's poor performance and bad decisions over the last several years." The most prominent of the investors' nominees is Gordon Bethune, who served as CEO of Continental Airlines from 1994 through 2004. Bethune is largely seen as turning that troubled airline into one of the country's leading carriers.

United merged with Continental in 2010 and has struggled ever since. Unions fought the integration, customer service declined, flights were delayed and computer problems persisted. All of that caused United to lose revenue and market share to peers such as Delta Air Lines and American Airlines, despite having one of the best route networks. United is profitable but lagging behind its competition in ticket prices.

One quarter of all United flights last year left late, according to the Bureau of Transportation statistics, with those that were late averaging 65 minutes in delays. By comparison, only 19 percent of American flights and 15 percent of Delta flights were late. And when late, the delays were not as severe, with American averaging 54 minutes and Delta 57 minutes.

The battle over the board comes just as United CEO Oscar Munoz returns from medical leave. Munoz became CEO in October after United dismissed Jeff Smisek amid a federal investigation into the airline's dealings with the government agency running one of its most important airports.

Munoz quickly brought some fresh air to the company, taking responsibility for the troubled integration and promising to make immediate changes to make employees and passengers happier. However, he suffered a heart attack on Oct. 15 and had a heart transplant In January. He is scheduled to just get back to work full-time Monday.

Pre-paid card users, under scrutiny, find tax refunds frozen

PHOENIX (AP)—Thousands of people have had their prepaid debit cards frozen when they try to direct their tax refund to their accounts, a result of financial industry efforts to combat an escalation in tax fraud.

It's keeping people from their money, and delaying access to much-anticipated tax refunds. People who rely on prepaid debit card accounts are often poorer Americans who don't have traditional bank accounts.

Shannon King had her money frozen for two weeks. She had planned to use it for car repairs and to help pay for a move, both of which then had to be delayed. "It was very frustrating," King said.

King has a Wal-Mart MoneyCard, which is run by Green Dot. She said after her refund was deposited, Green Dot froze the card and asked her to send a picture of her Tennessee state identification card to verify the account. The process to release the money took more than two weeks, she had to submit photos of her ID a number of times—Green Dot said they weren't readable—and she says she spent hours on the phone with customer service agents to resolve the problem.

The Associated Press reviewed documents sent to Green Dot by King, including her ID picture, and they appeared clear.

Prepaid debit card companies Green Dot, NetSpend and others say the problems are the result of tighter fraud protection measures. Both Green Dot and Wal-Mart have apologized, but emphasized the measures were there to protect their customers.

"We're working with the company to ensure that any customer service issues are resolved as quickly as possible," a spokeswoman for Wal-Mart said.

Medicare to test new payment model for some outpatient drugs

WASHINGTON (AP)—Medicare proposed a nationwide experiment Tuesday on revamping how the government pays for drugs administered in a doctor's office, including many cancer treatments.

Chief Medical Officer Patrick Conway said Washington won't be telling doctors which drugs to prescribe.

Instead, the goal is to address financial incentives in the current payment system that can encourage the use of a more expensive drug, when a cheaper medication is just as effective.

Such "perverse incentives" do not benefit patients or Medicare, Conway said.

Drugs administered in doctors' offices or hospital outpatient departments cost Medicare about $20 billion in 2015, a fraction of what the program spends overall on prescription medications.

Under current rules, Medicare pays the average sales price of a drug plus a 6 percent fee. Many experts have already pointed out what seems obvious: that 6 percent of a more expensive drug translates into higher revenue for a medical practice or hospital.

"Two drugs may have the same effectiveness and there may be a penalty for choosing the lower-cost drug, because the reimbursement is less," Conway explained. Medicare has heard from cancer doctors complaining they're pressured into prescribing more expensive chemo to maximize revenue, he added.

Under the elaborate experiment being proposed by Medicare, parts of the country would operate under different payment rules for physician-administered medications. The results would then be compared, and if new approaches can maintain or improve quality while showing potential to curb costs, permanent changes could follow across the whole country.

The basic alternative approach would pay doctors 2.5 percent of the cost of a drug, plus a flat per-day fee. Conway said the experiment is designed to have no initial budget impact.

It's unclear how doctors and hospitals will respond. In the past, smaller oncology clinics have complained that Medicare cuts have a disproportionate impact on them.

Other payment alternatives to be tested include reducing or eliminating a patient's share of costs for drugs deemed highly effective, as well as paying a premium for drugs that deliver demonstrably better results. Medicare hopes to launch its experiment later this year.

Nation

Sanders is surprise victor in Michigan; Trump keeps winning

LANSING, Mich. (AP)—Bernie Sanders breathed new life into his longshot White House bid with a crucial win in Michigan's primary Tuesday night, chipping away at Hillary Clinton's dominance in the Democratic presidential race. Republican Donald Trump swept to victory in both Michigan and Mississippi, overcoming fierce efforts to blunt his momentum.

AP

Democratic presidential candidate, Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt. acknowledges his supporters on arrival at a campaign rally, Tuesday, March 8, 2016, in Miami.

Even with Sanders' win, Clinton and Trump moved closer to a general election face-off. Clinton breezed to an easy victory in Mississippi, propelled by overwhelming support from black voters, and she now has more than half the delegates she needs to clinch the Democratic nomination. Trump, too, padded his lead over Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, who carried the Idaho primary.

The front-runners turned their sights on November as they reveled in their wins.

"We are better than what we are being offered by the Republicans," Clinton declared.

In a nod toward the kind of traditional politics he's shunned, Trump emphasized the importance of helping Republican senators and House members get elected in the fall.

FBI agents investigated over shots fired during standoff

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Federal authorities rounded up 12 people in five states on Thursday, bringing to 19 the number of defendants facing conspiracy, assault and threats charges in a 2014 armed standoff over grazing cattle on U.S. land near renegade cattleman Cliven Bundy's ranch in southern Nevada.

Arrests of alleged co-conspirators in Arizona, Utah, Idaho, Oklahoma and New Hampshire came after a federal grand jury in Las Vegas expanded an indictment already filed against Bundy. It also names two adult Bundy sons and five other men already in federal custody following the end of a nearly six-week armed occupation of a wildlife refuge in Oregon.

Court documents accuse the men of leading more than 200 followers into an armed confrontation that forced federal Bureau of Land Management agents and contract cowboys to abandon an effort to corral and remove Bundy cattle from federal lands where he was accused of letting them graze for decades without paying federal fees.

At the family home in Bunkerville, Nevada, Cliven Bundy's wife, Carol, acknowledged that her husband and sons Ammon, Ryan, Melvin and David Bundy were in federal custody. The mother of 14 adult children pleaded for prayer and echoed her husband's call to fight government overreach.

ACROSS THE NATION

6 slain during violent day on streets of Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Six people have been killed during a bloody day on the streets of Philadelphia. The violence began Tuesday afternoon when police say a man randomly stabbed three people, killing one man and sending two others to the hospital. The suspect was taken into custody, but has not been charged. A few hours later, investigators say gunfire broke out, leaving one man dead and another in critical condition. Over the next several hours, police say four more men were killed in four separate shootings. No arrests have been made in any of the shootings. All of the killings happened in different neighborhoods, and police aren't saying whether any of them are connected.

Man suspected of shooting pastor arrested in Washington DC

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho (AP)—The man suspected of shooting and seriously wounding an Idaho pastor last weekend was arrested by U.S. Secret Service agents Tuesday after he allegedly threw items over the fence at the White House, police said. Meanwhile, Pastor Tim Remington, shot six times Sunday outside his church in Coeur d'Alene, has regained consciousness and is talking with his family, an associate said Tuesday. Coeur d'Alene Police Chief Lee White said Kyle Odom was arrested at about 5:30 p.m. in Washington D.C., safely and without incident. "I think everyone can breathe a good sigh of relief that at least this part of the case has come to a conclusion," White said. White said he was told Odom threw computer flash drives and other unidentified items over the fence. Hazardous materials and bomb teams were working to identify the other items, he said.

California train likely derailed by mudslide

SUNOL, Calif. (AP)—A mudslide likely caused a commuter train to derail in storm-soaked Northern California, plunging its lead car into a rain-swollen creek and sending passengers scrambling in the dark to get out of the partially submerged car. Nine people were injured, four seriously, the Alameda County Fire Department said. The slide of mud and debris seems to have swept a tree onto the Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) train tracks Monday evening, Union Pacific spokesman Francisco J. Castillo said. The train was traveling 35 mph in the 40 mph zone, said Steve Walker, an Altamont Corridor spokesman. The first car was carrying six passengers and one crew member when it fell into Alameda Creek, Walker said. ACE will resume service Wednesday with a westbound train leaving Stockton at 4:20 a.m., spokesman Brian Schmidt told the San Jose Mercury News.

Asia

Kim Jong Un poses beside possible nuclear warhead mock up

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea has caused a new stir with photos on the front page of its ruling party newspaper Wednesday that show the country's leader Kim Jong Un standing beside a purported mock-up of a miniaturized nuclear warhead during a meeting with his top nuclear scientists.

The Rodong Sinmun newspaper for the Workers' Party said Kim met his nuclear scientists for a briefing on the status of their work and declared he was greatly pleased that warheads had been standardized and miniaturized for use on ballistic missiles.

The party newspaper photos showed Kim and the scientists standing by what outside analysts say appears to be the model warhead—a small, silverish globe presented on a low table in a hangar with a ballistic missile or a model ballistic missile in the background.

South Korea's Defense Ministry said Wednesday it was analyzing the objects shown in the North Korean photos.

Pyongyang has previously said it has nuclear warheads small enough to put on long-range missiles, but experts have questioned such claims.

This was the first time the North has publicly portrayed what its designs look like, though it remains unclear whether the North has a functioning warhead of that size or if it is simply trying to develop one.

North Korea warned Monday of pre-emptive nuclear strikes after the United States and South Korea began holding their biggest-ever war games, which will go on until the end of April. Tensions have been high after North Korea's recent nuclear test and rocket launch, which prompted the United Nations to adopt tough new sanctions.

The North claims it tested its first H-bomb in the Jan. 6 nuclear test, which was followed last month by the launch of a rocket that put a satellite into orbit but which is seen as a violation of U.N. resolutions because it contains dual-use technology that could also be applied to long-range ballistic missiles. Its development of smaller nuclear weapons and long-range missiles that could be used to deliver them to targets overseas has long been a matter of concern and could potentially shake up the security balance in Asia.

AP

A South Korean army soldier walks by a TV screen showing North Korean leader Kim Jong Un with superimposed letters that read: "North Korea's nuclear warhead" during a news program at Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, March 9, 2016.

Court rules PH Sen. Grace Poe can run for president

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine Supreme Court ruled Tuesday that Sen. Grace Poe is eligible to run for president in May 9 elections, overturning an elections commission decision to disqualify her and removing a long-hanging legal question over a tightly fought race to lead the Southeast Asian nation.

The justices voted 9-6 in favor of Poe's petitions against the Commission on Elections' decision last December to disqualify her on the grounds that she was not a natural-born citizen and did not have the 10 years of Philippine residency required of presidential candidates, Supreme Court spokesman Theodore Te said.

Elections Chairman Andres Bautista said his commission respects the ruling and will assess whether to appeal.

"This victory isn't only mine," a triumphant Poe told hundreds of people who joined an International Women's Day rally by a left-wing group in a downtown Manila square. "This is most of all a victory for the oppressed, a victory for those who are burdened by this system and a victory for women."

Asked by The Associated Press how she felt, Poe replied: "Relieved, but this is only the start, we need to do a lot of things. There is now a big opening for us to start our work."

The decision provided a major boost to the campaign of Poe, who is already leading in popularity polls, and removes a cloud of uncertainty over what has been shaping as a closely contested four-way race to succeed President Benigno Aquino III, whose six-year term ends June 30.

"She will now be the candidate to beat," political analyst Ramon Casiple said, adding that people who were concerned that she may be taken out of the race because of her legal troubles now have a clear choice.

Doctors say health of Thailand's 88-year-old king improving

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's royal palace announced Tuesday that the health of 88-year-old King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who has been suffering from infections and breathing difficulties, has improved in response to antibiotic treatment and physical therapy.

A statement from the palace said the king's fever has declined and an inflammation of his joints was cured. Bhumibol suffers from many of the ailments associated with old age, and has lived in a Bangkok hospital for most of the past six years.

The palace announced in mid-February that Bhumibol, the world's longest-reigning monarch, had a 38.1 C (100.6 F) fever, fatigue, rapid breathing and occasional high blood pressure.

Tuesday's announcement said his physicians have stopped giving him antibiotics intravenously, but are still treating him with oral antibiotics, oxygen and physical therapy.

The king has been a stabilizing figure through much of his reign, but his participation in public affairs has sharply declined in recent years. Worries about the king's health and succession have contributed to Thailand's political instability over the past decade. The heir apparent, Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn, does not command the same respect and affection as his father.

World

Despair, confusion in Greece as refugees face closed border

IDOMENI, Greece (AP)—Despair and confusion spread through the camp at the Greek-Macedonian border Tuesday as thousands of stranded refugees were forced to acknowledge that the route through Europe that had carried their hopes and dreams was now shut.

The dozens of people crammed together at the front of the line to the border crossing looked at the closed gate and razor wire in disbelief. One young Syrian muttered he had been in the tent at the crossing for five days without sleeping. It was his 15th day at the Idomeni refugee camp.

One woman broke down, crying and screaming as she held her baby in her arms while a man tried to calm and comfort her. Refugees asked reporters what had happened in Brussels, and asked what they could or should do next.

European Union leaders who held a summit with Turkey said early Tuesday they hoped they had reached the outlines for a possible deal with Ankara to return thousands of migrants to Turkey, and said they were confident a full agreement could be reached at a summit next week.

They also said the "irregular flows of migrants along the Western Balkans route have now come to an end."

Nobody has crossed through the Idomeni border gate since early Monday morning. The nail in the coffin for the main Balkan migration route came late Tuesday evening, when Serbia's Interior Ministry said Slovenia will demand valid EU visas at its borders as of midnight Tuesday. That means Serbia will act accordingly and close its borders with Macedonia and Bulgaria for those who do not have valid documents.

Nearly 14,000 people, who all risked their lives to get to Greece, have waited for days and weeks in the cold, rain and mud at the overflowing refugee camp in Idomeni, ripping branches off trees to use as firewood.

About 100 people boarded two buses, one Tuesday morning and one in the evening, bound south for Athens and whichever refugee camp might have room for them. Greek authorities have said they will not forcibly evacuate people from Idomeni.

Despite US airstrikes, Somali extremist group still active

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—By U.S. accounts, it was a devastating airstrike against Islamic militants in Somalia, with more than 150 fighters killed in a training camp. But the weekend attack probably won't diminish al-Shabab's ability to continue a wave of bloodshed.

African Union ground forces succeeded in ousting al-Shabab fighters from Somalia's capital in 2011 and protecting the weak government. Since then, however, they have been unable to stop other violence: assaults on AU forces, including one that killed up to 200 Kenyan soldiers in January, frequent suicide attacks on civilians in Mogadishu, and an unsuccessful attempt last month to bring down an airliner with a bomb.

The forested military training camp, located 200 kilometers (125 miles) north of Mogadishu, was al-Shabab's main planning base, a Somali intelligence official said Tuesday.

Somalia's intelligence service cooperated with the U.S. in its airstrike, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to talk to the media on this matter.

U.S. forces had been watching Raso Camp for several weeks, said Navy Capt. Jeff Davis, a Pentagon spokesman. It appeared that their training was ending and the operational phase of a suspected attack against African or U.S. personnel was about to start, he said.

About 50 U.S. special operations forces rotate in and out of Somalia, advising and assisting military forces sent by five countries belonging to the African Union.

The airstrike appears to have caused more casualties than any other attack against al-Shabab, said J. Peter Pham, the director of the Atlantic Council's Africa Center.

Previous U.S. airstrikes have killed al-Shabab leaders, including Ahmed Abdi Godane, who had been the group's top commander, in 2014. And yet the group, far from being vanquished, came back with ferocity.

On day celebrating women, reminder of lingering gender gap

International Women's Day on Tuesday celebrated women and their accomplishments, but it also offered a stark reminder of the gender divides in rights, representation and pay.

The day carried the theme "Pledge for Parity"—a phrase and hashtag born out of the World Economic Forum's recent projection that the progress on achieving global gender parity is slowing.

Google's home page on Tuesday featured a video of women and girls dreaming and doing big things. Twitter and Facebook feeds filled with quotes from inspirational women and calls to action.

But the U.N. cultural agency also offered sobering statistics: More than 63 million girls are excluded from school in more than 200 countries across the world. Almost 16 million girls between the ages of 6 and 11—compared with about 8 million boys—will never get the chance to learn to read or write in primary school "if current trends continue," according to a report from UNESCO's Institute for Statistics.

Women also account for 70 percent of the world's hungry, the U.N. reported, in part because longstanding discrimination has limited their access to food.

President Barack Obama, a father of two daughters, said in a statement that allowing women and girls around the world to rise and achieve their full potential will mean "a brighter, more peaceful and more prosperous future for us all."

Hillary Clinton, vying to become the country's first woman president, tweeted Tuesday that advancing the status of women and girls will make economies grow and nations more secure.

"It's the right—and smart—thing to do," she wrote.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stressed empowering women as he spoke of preventable deaths during child birth and those who are subjected to "genital mutilation."

Environment

Humans join owl war in California

By NATALIE JACEWICZ
SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

SAN JOSE, Calif.—The barred owl has speckled brown wings, teddy bear eyes and a hoot that sounds like a puppy mouthing a sock. This one also has a red laser dot on its head. After getting a good look, Lowell Diller fires his rifle. The owl tumbles off its perch to the ground.

Diller has pulled the trigger on barred owls more than 100 times in the forests of Humboldt and Del Norte counties in California, but he's no poacher or renegade woodsman. He's a wildlife biologist who, as part of an experiment sanctioned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, kills one bird to protect another. The northern spotted owl, a smaller Pacific Northwest native that became symbolic of the region's timber conservation battles, is threatened with extinction.

Diller, a biologist and contractor for Green Diamond Resource Co., a lumber company managing timberland in Humboldt, Del Norte and Trinity counties, agrees the barred owl is "an amazing bird, a wonderful bird."

But it has invaded California from the eastern United States, muscling out northern spotted owls upstate, and spreading south toward San Francisco. If the barred owls continue their advance, they may swoop in on other birds as well, such as the California spotted owl in the Sierra National Forest and Monterey.

A study soon to be published in the Journal of Wildlife Management and Wildlife Monographs shows the results of Diller's grisly conservation experiment: It works.

Without barred owls competing for habitat, northern spotted owls bounce back. And conservationists now are staring down the barrel of a big question: How far should humans go to take sides in owl wars?

"By the time I'm done with this," Diller said, "I'm going to need a lot of therapy."

Diller couldn't have chosen a more charismatic creature for extermination. Owls pop up in plushies, knickknacks and even tote bags. Andrea Jones, the National Audubon Society's California director of bird conservation, suggested people admire owls because "they're part of a lot of lore and history." Plus, she added, "Humans love things with big eyes."

Unfortunately, the big-eyed barred owl is also a big bully. The owl spread from the East, likely as trees were planted in the Midwest and people increasingly suppressed forest fires. Upon arrival, barred owls become real estate moguls and chase other birds from their territory. These bullied birds may fall mute to avoid detection, fail to call out to potential mates and plummet in number.

MCT

Jack Dumbacher, curator of the California Academy of Sciences Department of Ornithology and Mammalogy, looks at a collection of barred owl specimens in San Francisco on Thursday, Feb. 25, 2016.

MCT

Jack Dumbacher, a curator of Ornithology and Mammalogy at he California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco, Calif., is studying the alarming impact of the invasive barred owl, foreground, on threatened spotted owl populations.

MCT

A spotted owl, left, and a barred owl specimen are held side-by-side by Jack Dumbacher, curator of the California Academy of Sciences Department of Ornithology and Mammalogy, in San Francisco on Thursday, Feb. 25, 2016.

Northern spotted owl populations, for example, have fallen in some areas by about 12 percent each year, despite efforts enacted in the 1990s to protect their old-growth forest habitat.

"Can you imagine letting something like that go extinct?" Diller asked. "It's really not acceptable."

Northern spotted owls also have winning personalities. They're curious and tend to come closer than many other species when human researchers offer mice. The males carry the mice back to nests to feed their mates. And the owls can remember individual people.

"They very quickly learn that you're the source of the mouse," Diller said. "So they'll kind of get attached to you."

Once barred owls swooped in, northern spotted owls seemed to disappear, but this evidence was circumstantial. To be sure barred owls were causing the decline, someone needed to create a controlled experiment.

Timberlands with northern spotted owls have to submit habitat conservation plans. Diller had noticed spotted owl numbers were slipping when he met Jack Dumbacher, ornithology curator at the California Academy of Sciences. Dumbacher needed to collect some barred owl specimens, and he had a permit to do so. Diller saw an opportunity.

He realized he could apply for a permit from U.S. Fish and Wildlife to test whether barred owls were actually cutting into northern spotted owl populations. If the experiment supported Diller's hunch, he could use the findings to inform future habitat conservation plans for Green Diamond, maximizing trees that could be sustainably harvested while protecting a threatened species.

In 2009, with permission from the feds and the state Department of Fish and Wildlife, Diller set aside patches of timberland to remove barred owls. In other patches, he did nothing. After four years, he would see how northern spotted owl numbers differed in the areas with and without barred owls.

Dumbacher and Diller went into the woods together at dusk, first playing a spotted owl call. If a spotted owl appeared, the pair moved on. If not, they played a barred owl call and waited for a barred owl to move to a perch for a clear visual identification. With one shot, Dumbacher killed the first bird.

"It was quite traumatic, the first one," Diller recalled. "It was so foreign, the idea of doing something like this. I couldn't even watch him do it."

Eventually, he grew comfortable enough to kill the birds without Dumbacher's help. But Diller's study suggests his trauma has paid off: In the areas without barred owls, northern spotted owls are no longer declining. The study is the first to prove this treatment works.

Green Diamond has applied for more permits to continue removing barred owls. Gary Rynearson, the company's chief communications officer and forest policy director, said that more spotted owls does not mean Green Diamond will increase logging, but it does mean that current rates of logging can continue. Though logging companies have often been at odds with threatened species such as the northern spotted owl, the company is excited about the study's results, Rynearson said.

"When you can protect and sustain a business and jobs and also conserve the northern spotted owl," he said, "why not do it?"

Now, the Fish and Wildlife Service is conducting four other experiments over larger landscapes in Washington, Oregon and California. These studies could pave the way for more widespread management of barred owls if they continue to move farther south in California.

But the ethics leave some conservationists uncomfortable.

"It's sort of a no-win situation," Audubon's Jones said grimly. "We're not advocating for the killing or against the killing."

She blames old-growth habitat destruction for pitting the two owls against each other in the first place.

PETA called the approach "cheap, dirty, destructive and unimaginative," while Shawn Cantrell, Defenders of Wildlife's northwestern program director, suggested that barred owl removal should play a short-term role in spotted owl conservation, while habitat restoration should play a bigger one. "When we mess things up, we have an obligation to fix them," he said.

Even Dumbacher has his doubts about what's the right approach.

"Right now, it's a bunch of us nerdy scientists out there, doing what we think is best," he said. "I don't know what's best. I have a broken heart when I think about the forest. There's no wilderness left in California. We don't have the resources to save everything."

When haunted by the killing, Diller tries to focus on what he's saving: the northern spotted owl. He talks about a pair of owls that emerged from hiding only two weeks after he'd removed barred owls from their old home.

Though he hadn't seen them in a while, Diller recognized the two owls, thanks to tags. "They were looking for a free mouse and flew up to greet me," he said. "That was thrilling."

Life & Style

Hulk Hogan separates persona from person in sex tape trial

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Courtroom action in Hulk Hogan's lawsuit against Gawker Media began and ended on explicit notes Tuesday, as Hogan discussed how he tried to separate his wrestling persona from his real-life one.

Testimony included detailed references to Hogan's sex life and sexual parts. In one audio clip from the Bubba The Love Sponge Show, the radio personality and Hogan discussed the length of Hogan's penis. Later in the day, employees from Gawker Media answered questions about why they posted a photo of a penis in an employee-only chat.

The testimony set Twitter aflame, with wrestling fans, First Amendment watchers and media types riveted to the live streaming video of the trial.

AP

Hulk Hogan, whose given name is Terry Bollea,testifies in court on Tuesday, March 8, 2016, during his trial against Gawker Media, in St Petersburg, Fla.

Hogan, whose given name is Terry Bollea, is suing Gawker for $100 million for posting an edited- version of a sex tape. Hogan said he didn't know he was being filmed when he had sex with his then-best friend's wife. The friend, Florida-based radio DJ Bubba The Love Sponge Clem, gave his blessing to the coupling—which took place in the Clems' bedroom—and even handed Hogan a condom.

A broadcast engineer who worked for Clem said he installed a videocamera in Clem's bedroom. David Rice testified that someone had to manually push a button to make a recording with the camera.

Hogan said he didn't know the encounter was being taped.

In other testimony, Tony Burton, a talent agent for a radio competitor of Clem's, said he contacted Gawker for a client, to get an address where something could be shipped. Burton, the agent for competitor Mike Calta, did not say what happened next. But in an email to The Associated Press, he said he had "never had the DVD, seen the DVD or provided Gawker with anything."

The morning testimony elicited Hogan's take on his famous public image versus his private life—at times, a discourse on celebrity culture and identity.

Bill Cosby's wife says she never read sex assault deposition

BOSTON (AP)—The wife of Bill Cosby said she never read a deposition in which her husband acknowledged he gave sedatives to women he was planning to have sex with, according to an excerpt of her testimony in a defamation lawsuit against her husband.

Camille Cosby testified last month in the civil case filed in federal court in Massachusetts by seven women who claim he sexually assaulted them decades ago. The women allege the actor-comedian defamed them when his representatives branded them as liars after they went public with their allegations.

An excerpt of Camille Cosby's deposition was attached to a court filing Monday by Bill Cosby's lawyers seeking to suspend the defamation case while a criminal case is pending against him in Pennsylvania. In that case, Cosby is charged with sexually assaulting former Temple University employee Andrea Constand.

In the Constand case, Cosby acknowledged in a 2005 deposition, made public last year, that he gave quaaludes to at least one woman and unidentified others he wanted to have sex with.

Camille Cosby says in her testimony in February that she and her husband discussed his deposition in the Constand case, but she wouldn't say specifically what they discussed about it. A U.S. District Court judge in Massachusetts had ruled that she could refuse to answer questions that call for testimony prohibited by the Massachusetts marital disqualification rule, which generally prohibits spouses from testifying about private marital conversations.

AP

In this Oct. 26, 2009 file photo, comedian Bill Cosby, left, and his wife Camille appear at the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts before Bill Cosby received the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor in Washington.

Lawyers want DA to say Bobbi Kristina's death wasn't murder

ATLANTA (AP)—Lawyers for Bobbi Kristina Brown's partner on Tuesday called on a prosecutor to tell the public she wasn't murdered.

Joe Habachy and Jose Baez, attorneys for Nick Gordon, released a statement calling on Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard to acknowledge there was no evidence of wrongdoing in Brown's death.

"Frankly, the right thing for the District Attorney's office to do right now is to tell the public the truth ... that this was an accident ... or even a suicide, but not a murder," the statement says. "And the right thing for everyone to do is let Nick live his life now and let Bobbi Kristina rest in peace."

Howard spokeswoman Claire LaBriola said in an email that the district attorney had no comment. Howard said last week his office's investigation into Brown's death would continue.

Brown, daughter of singers Whitney Houston and Bobby Brown, was found face-down and unresponsive in a bathtub in her suburban Atlanta townhome Jan. 31, 2015. She died in hospice care July 26.

Howard had asked a judge to seal the report from Bobbi Kristina's autopsy while his office investigates. The judge did so in September, but last week ordered it unsealed after two television stations challenged it.

Sibling estranged in life opts to remain estranged in death

DEAR ABBY: I've been estranged from my three siblings, their spouses and their families for 35 years—my choice. There has been no correspondence, and I have seen them only at our parents' funerals.

Since we are all in our 80s, I anticipate there will be funerals for us in the next decade. If I go first, there is no problem. However, I'm considering not attending their funerals or those of their spouses. My grown children say I MUST attend because I'm their brother. I'm concerned that I might be a distraction or there could be a confrontation. Besides, I still remember what caused my estrangement and I just don't want to see them. I know I'm stubborn, but am I wrong?

TO GO OR NOT TO GO

DEAR GO OR NO: I disagree with your children. People attend funerals to pay their respects to the deceased and/or comfort the family who has suffered the loss. If, after 35 years, you show up at the funeral, you could, indeed, be a distraction—unless it has been so long that nobody recognizes you.

DEAR ABBY: Is it wrong to have no interest in grandchildren? My wife is five years older than I am and she's elated with our new grandchild. I'm only 42 and I feel I'm too young to be a "Gramps." I prefer to be free from kid activities and enjoy my adult pursuits.

I have raised children for the last 20-plus years and I think it's my stepdaughter's turn to be a parent. My wife is all gung ho to watch the grandchild anytime she's free, but I'm not interested at all.

Am I wrong for wanting my own time and space with my wife?

TOO YOUNG FOR IT IN OKLAHOMA

DEAR TOO YOUNG: No law says you must baby-sit if you don't want to. Not everyone enjoys the company of small children. If your wife enjoys doing it, that's her privilege. However, if the baby-sitting is interfering with your marriage, then you're complaining to the wrong woman, and the two of you need to work out a compromise on which you can both agree.

DEAR ABBY: I have very long hair and I'm proud of it. I have worn my hair long ever since I was a little girl. My problem is when I go somewhere, other women come up to me and start touching it.

I understand that they like my hair because they always compliment me on it, but I hate it when strangers touch me. Apparently, people have forgotten the concept of "personal space."

How can I tell someone—without sounding rude—to please not touch me? Or must I just keep quiet and tolerate it with a smile?

RAPUNZEL IN DALLAS

DEAR RAPUNZEL: Not everyone enjoys being touched, particularly by strangers. If someone reaches out to pet you, smile, step back and say, "I'd prefer you not do that." You have a right to your personal space. As long as you say it in a pleasant but firm tone, no one has the right to be offended. And if someone is, refrain from making it your problem.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

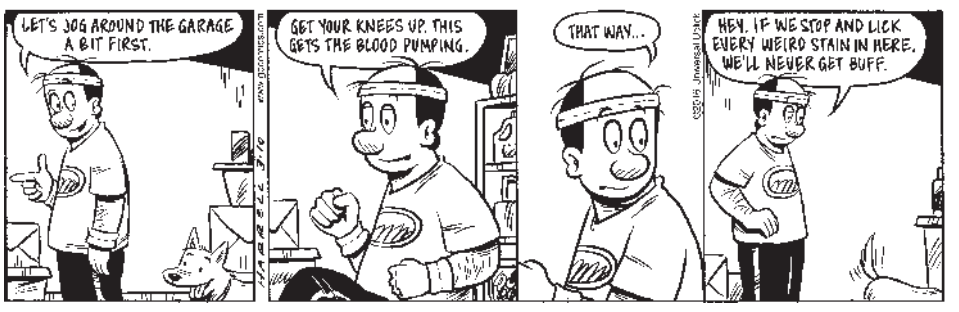
HOW ARE YOU TODAY?
FINE.
I WANT THE TOP OF MY HEAD SHAVED, AND THE SIDES DYED PINK AND CUT IN HORIZONTAL STRIPES. OK?
MA'AM?
GIVE HIM THE USUAL, PETE.
WELL I GUESS THIS GUY KNOWS WHICH SIDE HIS BREAD IS BUTTERED ON!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


LET'S JOG AROUND THE GARAGE A BIT FIRST.
GET YOUR KNEES UP. THIS GETS THE BLOOD PUMPING.
THAT WAY...
HEY, IF WE STOP AND LICK EVERY WEIRD STAIN IN HERE, WE'LL NEVER GET BUFF.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

RING!
TURN ON THE TV! I'M ON IT RIGHT NOW! WAIT TILL YOU SEE MY NEXT SELFIE. FOLLOW ME ON TWITTER AND CHECK OUT MY NEWEST MAGAZINE COVER!
BOY, THAT KIM KARDASHIAN IS ANNOYING.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

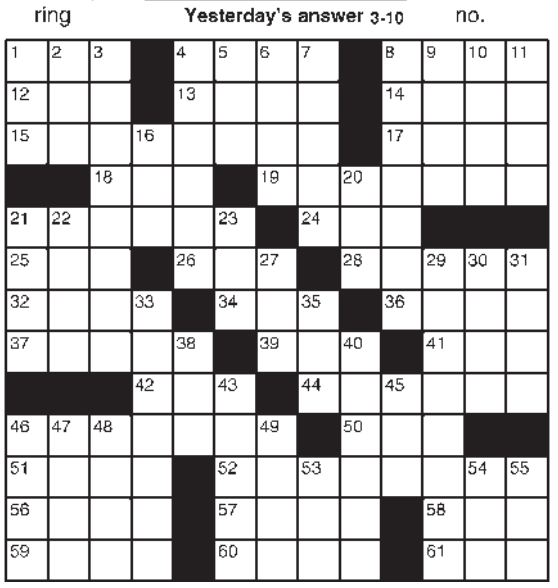
ACROSS
1 Hearty brew
4 NYC cultural center
8 Houston acronym
12 Cribbage scorer
13 Blue dye source
14 Press agent?
15 Auber-gine
17 Zilch
18 Perched
19 Pledge drive gift
21 "Songs of a Wayfarer" composer
24 Minivan alterna-tive
25 Candle count
26 Pooch
28 Big burp
32 "— Fiction"
34 Drench
36 Saintly ring
37 Stylist's shop
39 — de mer
41 Shrill bark
42 Wee bit
44 Ravel's "— for a Dead Princess"
46 Soviet satellite
50 Go astray
51 Cheese go-with
52 Zero
56 Eastern potentate (Var.)
57 Nullify
58 Hiatus
59 "Firework" singer Perry
60 Cushions
61 "Today" rival, briefly

DOWN
1 Mimic
2 Table support
3 Off-white
4 Sweet-shoppe drink
5 — tear
6 Gum flavor
7 Choir members
8 Capital of old Assyria
9 Bedouin
10 Pop
11 Scram-bled wd.
16 Chum
20 Vat
21 Naviga-tor's stack
22 Oaxaca water
23 Squabble
27 Jewel
29 Bomb on stage
30 Family
31 Great expecta-tion
33 Clayware
35 Spigot
38 Indian bread
40 Rodeo ropes
43 Excavate
45 Compete
46 Love-letter abbr.
47 Fine cotton
48 One
49 Hawaiian coffee
53 Quirky
54 Leg, in slang
55 Transcript no.

Solution time: 24 mins.

B	F	D		S	A	N	F		S	A	P	S
O	R	E		C	H	I	N		A	M	A	T
S	N	L		R	A	P	I	D	C	I	T	Y
H	E	L	_	C			D	U	H			
				E	L	I	S		G	E	T	A	T
P	A	P	I	I	I	O	N		T	A	R	C
A	V	A		S	E	N	O	R		L	E	G
P	O	N	G		T	A	P	I	O	C	A	S
A	N	I	E	S		R	E	B	A			
			N	C	G			E	T	H	A	N
C	A	P	I	L	L	A	R	Y		A	S	A
E	C	R	U		A	G	U	E		D		V
L	E	O	S		M	A	T	S		J	A	Y

Yesterday's answer 3-10



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Olivia Wilde, 32; Carrie Underwood, 33; Jon Hamm, 45; Sharon Stone, 58.

Happy Birthday: Tidy up loose ends before you jump in to new beginnings. If you want things to run smoothly, you have to take care of the baggage you've been dragging along. Expect to face opposition and challenges, but also to learn and gain from the experiences you encounter. Aim for personal success and don't waste time on people and situations you cannot change. Your numbers are 7, 12, 18, 24, 27, 30, 45.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't give out secret information. Protect your assets and don't try to get away with something that could cause problems with banks, government agencies or institutions. Know what you are up against and negotiate strategically. Strive for equality. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Being attentive will help you keep the peace. Visiting someone in person to talk about how you feel will help you examine your intentions and plans for the future. Romance will resolve an uncertainty you have. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Strive for equality in all your relationships, and you will get good results that will lead to something new. This is a give-and-take sort of day that can bring fabulous results and new opportunities. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Stop and rethink your strategy. Opposition and criticism will arise if you aren't willing to show that you are capable of compromise. Don't limit what you can do. Negotiate for equality, not to take over everything. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Check out something that grabs your interest. Don't be afraid of being put on the spot when you should welcome the chances to present what you have to offer. Be a leader and aim to impress in order to progress. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Financial, medical or legal matters will surface. Make a point to know what's going on so that you can protect your interests and be fully prepared to counter any offer that needs adjusting. Charm and compromise will lead to victory. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Study the competition before jumping into a challenge that could be costly. Have your strategy in place so you are prepared in case you meet resistance. Being willing to give up a little initially will help you get what you want in the end. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Look for a challenge that will motivate you to strive to do better. Your intuition and insight will help you make good choices. You can improve a personal partnership if you are open about the way you feel. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Control your emotions before you say something you regret. Look at both sides of a situation and approach it with the understanding that everyone needs to come out with something if matters are to be resolved. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Give others the same freedom you have to come and go as you please. Once you establish boundaries, you will be able to focus on doing your own thing. A personal contract or legal matter will turn in your favor. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Mix the old with the new. Take an idea and give it a new twist. Be a trendsetter, and you will gain popularity and give people a reason to take notice. A change in your financial status will lead to more security. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Persistence is good, but patience will be required. Listen and learn. Take your time and get an overall picture of what you are up against before you decide to make a move or share your plans for the future. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are goal-oriented, challenging and loyal. You are humorous and appealing.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			5				7	
		3				9		5
	7				4		2	
8				9		5		
			3	7	1			
		2		4				3
	8		4				9	
9		1				8		
	2				6			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	9	5	4	3	8	2	6	1
6	1	8	5	7	2	4	9	3
4	3	2	9	6	1	8	5	7
2	7	9	8	4	6	3	1	5
1	5	6	7	2	3	9	8	4
8	4	3	1	5	9	7	2	6
5	2	4	6	8	7	1	3	9
9	8	7	3	1	5	6	4	2
3	6	1	2	9	4	5	7	8

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

TRAVELER'S CHECKS Solution: 7 letters

N	E	E	N	O	I	S	S	I	M	M	O	C	M	S
G	E	U	E	P	A	Y	A	B	L	E	U	E	E	I
I	F	L	X	H	O	T	E	L	S	R	M	R	R	G
E	E	B	O	O	E	T	A	R	R	E	I	T	C	N
R	L	I	A	T	E	R	A	E	R	A	T	I	H	A
O	P	T	E	O	S	L	N	G	L	F	M	F	A	T
F	R	N	V	C	L	C	E	N	A	O	I	I	N	U
E	U	U	O	O	Y	N	U	R	N	S	P	E	T	R
R	P	O	D	P	C	M	D	E	S	R	O	D	N	E
U	C	M	T	Y	B	R	Y	U	R	E	D	L	O	H
T	R	A	V	E	L	D	E	T	C	E	T	O	R	P
X	E	E	R	S	G	R	E	R	U	C	E	S	S	A
E	D	F	I	X	E	D	A	O	R	B	A	T	A	P
T	I	R	E	S	T	A	U	R	A	N	T	S	F	E
S	T	K	C	A	B	Y	U	B	D	N	U	F	E	R

©2016 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 3/10

Abroad, Amount, Blue, Budget, Buyback, Certified, Commission, Credit, Currency, Dollars, Dove, Draft, Emergency, Endorsed, Fee, Fixed, Foreign, Holder, Hotels, Issuer, Lost, Merchant, Money, Number, Paper, Payable, Photocopy, Protected, Purple, Rate, Refund, Restaurants, Retail, Safe, Secure, Serial, Signature, Stolen, Texture, Travel

Yesterday's Answer: Inhalation

To purchase the **WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2**, order online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHISPERING PALMS SCHOOL

Whispering Palms School is seeking dynamic K-8 teachers for the 2016-17 school year.

We are a small, non-profit private school with multigrade classrooms and a family-style atmosphere.

Teachers are encouraged to be creative with their instructional methods to maximize student engagement and learning.

Qualified candidates must have a current K-8 teaching credential, preferably with a master's degree and 2+ years of classroom teaching experience.

If you are interested in applying or would like more information please contact us at whisperingpalmsofsaipan@gmail.com or call (670) 323-7451.

JOB VACANCY

Construction Finance and Forecasting Specialist
Number of Openings: 1
Job Duties: Arrange for financing of materials and supplies for a multi-billion dollar project. Prepare estimates for use in selecting vendors or subcontractors. Confer with engineers, architects, owners, contractors and subcontractors on changes and adjustments to cost estimates. Prepare estimates used by executive management for purposes such as planning, organizing and scheduling work. Ensure the timely provision of capital for all activities on the projects. Provide input into project establishment and set up as required.
Qualification Requirements: 2-4 years of experience in the construction industry. 2-4 years of experience in the finance industry.

To apply for this position, you are required to email your detailed resume to recruitment@bestsunshine.com or drop off an application to the Best Sunshine Office located on the 3rd floor of the Bank of Guam building in Garapan.

MACS MARINE

Now Hiring

(1) Commercial Diver
At least five years experience in Scuba Diving. Must have a Diver license.

Interested applicants, please contact Adonis Santos at 323-2916

WHATZIT Solution: In the middle of nowhere

EMPLOYMENT

1-Violin Instructor. 3 years experience. Myong Run Corp. dba Doremi Music School. Tel. 233-7777.

(2) Bookkeeper, (8) Houseworker, (2) Computer Support Specialist. Minimum Salary. Mail resume to MTO Maintenance (Saipan), Inc. at P.O. Box 504053, Saipan, MP 96950.

MAKE-A-WISH

Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr.,
Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104
Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH • Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

We are seeking for high energy individuals with a positive, can do attitude.
Pacific Islands Club, Saipan is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

(1) CARPENTER
Minimum of three (3) years work experience as a cabinet maker and finishing carpenter. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) CHEF DE PARTIE
Minimum of three (3) years working in a similar capacity in a hotel, plus one (1) year of supervisory experience. Must have good management and organizational skills. Must have the ability to work independently and within a team, and have the ability to work well under pressure. Must have excellent communication skills. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

CLUBMATES
Must have previous related work experience and must pass all American Red Cross Lifeguard requirements (including a 300 yard continuous swim test); Sports-minded individuals are encouraged to apply; Must possess good verbal and written communication skills; Korean, Japanese and/or Russian language skill is a plus; Paid training and free two year lifeguard certification course for eligible candidates; Must be able to work on evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) GUEST RELATIONS
Minimum of two (2) years hospitality experience. Must have the ability in providing hotel guests with above and beyond service to ensure their experience will be worth remembering. Must have cheerful personality in meeting guest upon arrival and bids them farewell as they leave. Must be able to make strong and accurate decisions, negotiations and problem solving skills. Must have cashiering experience and computer literacy. Must be able to speak, read and write in English and one or more of the following languages: Korean, Russian, Japanese or Chinese. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) FRONT OFFICE MANAGER
Minimum of five (5) years of hotel/hospitality is required. Minimum of two (2) years of previous experience managing the Front Office of a hotel is required. Excellent Leadership with written and oral communication skills is necessary. Must have the ability to manage all aspects of the Front Office operations, including a Guest Relation, Call Center, and Guest Service operations; Must have the ability to set Front Office Budget, monitor Profit and Loss. Must have the ability to set an upsell program and work as part of the Yield Management team in maximize revenue for the hotel. Must computer knowledge on as PMS-Property Management System, Opera. Must be able to speak and understand one or more of the following languages: Korean, Japanese or Russian; Must be able to work graveyard shifts, evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) POOL MAINTENANCE
Minimum of two (2) years related work experience. Previous HAZMAT training preferred. Shift begins at 2:00 a.m. daily. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) SEA INFORMATION / CASHIER
Must be able to pass American Red Cross First Aid/CPR certification courses. Applicant must possess strong communication, interpersonal and customer service skills. The position requires a minimum of six (6) months of previous work experience in a cash handling position. The ability to comprehend and speak Japanese, Korean or Russian language is preferred but not required. The position requires the ability to work under pressure and time constraints. The applicant must be able to stand for long periods of time. The applicant must be able to work on a flexible schedule which includes early morning hours, nights, weekends and holidays.

(1) SEA SCHEDULER / CLUBMATE
Must be a certified American Red Cross lifeguard with a minimum of three years of experience. Must possess excellent verbal and written communication skills. Must have working knowledge of Microsoft Word and be proficient with Microsoft Excel, with the ability to work well under pressure. Strong attention to detail and the ability to work under deadlines are necessary qualifications for the S.E.A Scheduler. Applicants must be versed in the operations and rotations of the S.E.A department. Position will be asked to work various shifts in the hotels' waterpark, so sports-minded individuals are encouraged to apply; Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays. Korean, Japanese and/or Russian language skills preferred.

(1) SALES & MARKETING MANAGER – JAPAN MARKET
Minimum of three (3) years of Sales experience in the hotel industry is required. Four (4) years College degree preferred. Proficiency in Japanese language (verbal, written, reading and understanding) as well as Japanese MS Office, Opera System, Site Minder and Japanese hotel booking systems is required. Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays.

(1) WEB MARKETING MANAGER / GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Must have experience in reviewing and analyzing web analytics tools; Must be proficient in the use of Apple MC, MS Office, HTML and web design; Must be proficient in graphic design software in a MAC environment using: Adobe Photoshop Creative Suite 6.0, Adobe Indesign and Adobe Illustrator ; Must have strong organizational skills along with the ability to create high visual impact design. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, graveyard shifts and holidays.

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Wednesday, March 23rd, 2016.
PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance.
Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.
PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper.
Call 235-NEWS

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Registered Nurse

- Must Pass NCLEX-RN w/current CNMI RN License
- Must hold a Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Attended a Hemodialysis Training Program
- One to two years hemodialysis experience or related field
- English language skills-proficient in verbal, written and comprehension
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- In-service training with Baxter Phoenix Machine
- Experience with Ameriwater Bicarbonate Distribution System

Interested applicants must submit application or resume to St. Jude Renal Care Facility Inc., at Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit an application will be on Thursday, March 17, 2016 at 4:00pm. For more information, please contact (670) 234-2901 ext. 128.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

GPPC, INC.

(01) Architectural Drafter Tech.
Rate: $9.32/hr. or $2,100.00/month or commensurate to experience and qualification.

College graduate with a minimum of 2 years experience as an Architectural Technician. Capable of preparing detailed drawings of architectural/structural features of buildings as well as drawings and photographic relief maps used in civil engineering projects such as highways, bridges and other public works. Knowledgeable on building materials engineering practices/mathematics used to complete drawings drafts.

Interested applicants may apply at GPPC, INC. office located at As Perdido, Saipan, CNMI. A copy of police clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills, testing maybe required.
GPPC, INC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Closing date will be on March 14, 2016.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

1 ACCOUNTANT

Analyzes business operations, trends, costs, revenues, financial commitments, and obligations, to project future revenues and expenses or to provide advice. Applies principles of accounting, prepare, examine, or analyze accounting records, financial reports to asses accuracy, completeness, and conformance to reporting and procedural standards. Well-versed with CNS-CASS accounting systems procedures for freight forwarders. Set performance, goals, oversee the setting of transportation service and monitor revenue. Develop, maintain, and analyze budgets, preparing periodic reports that complete budgeted costs to actual costs. Operates policies and standards, including determination of safety procedures for handling of dangerous goods, and ensure compliance with the transport regulations. Arrange for shipping documentation and oversee the schedule and dispatching of goods and tracking and monitoring of goods in transit. Knowledgeable in air and ocean tariff and shipping regulations to ensure the corresponding freight services and charges are billed properly to concern customers import and export as well as overseas agents and affiliates. Payroll master prepares federal, state, or local tax returns of individuals, and business establishment. Analyzes financial information detailing assets, liabilities, and capital, and prepares balance sheet, profit and loss statement, and other reports to summarize current and projected company financial position, using calculator or computer. Complies and analyzes financial information to prepare entries to accounts such as general ledger accounts, documenting business transactions. Knowledgeable in operations of accounts payable section & month-end financial reports and establish tables of accounts and assign entries to proper documents. Audit contracts, orders and vouchers, and prepares reports to substantiate individual transactions prior to settlement.

Applicants must have Bachelor Degree in Accountancy and at least 5 years of experience in accounting. Must be proficient in Microsoft office applications and accounting software preferably Peachtree accounting system. Experience working according with federal shipping procedures/rules both air and ocean and required training in Basic Air Cargo Forwarding and dangerous goods.

Basic Description:
SunLeader Co. Ltd is primarily engaged in wholesaling that involves selling merchandise to retailers; wholesalers; merchants; industrial; commercial and institutional users. Also engaged in retailing that sells goods to the consumers. Having been established in Saipan in 1997, we do also cargo consolidations from China to Saipan. This constitutes our expertise in the field not to mention being equipped with exceptional warehousing equipment coupled with shipping lines. All these paved the way for us to garner a relevant position in the inventory.

Job description and experience requirement:
Specialized work experience and documentations required for operating. Applicants must be physically able to perform duties of the position. Able to work rotating work schedules which may include holidays and week-ends. Applicants will be required to complete written and oral interview. Interested applicants are required to submit/bring resume to: SUNLEADER CO. LTD., BEACH ROAD GARAPAN SAIPAN MP 96950. Phone: (670) 233-3222. Opening: March 08 to March 23, 2016. Applicant must meet the requirements by closing date of this announcement.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(3) Sales Associate-Minimum 3 years work experience.

(1) Accounting Associate-Minimum 3 years work experience.

Must be able to consistently demonstrate good customer service. Preferably knows how to speak and read Chinese and Japanese. Flexible working hours. Applicants should mail their resume to PMB 1118 Box 10003, Saipan, MP 96950 or email saipanbest07@gmail.com. American Saipan Best Corporation dba Saipan Best Shopping Market

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(3) Cook
(4) Waiter/Waitress
Applicants should have a minimum 3 years work related experience. Must be able to consistently demonstrate good customer service, preferably knows how to speak Chinese and Japanese. Flexible working hours.

(2) Maintenance Technician –
Minimum 3 years work related experience. Flexible working hours.

Please email resume to PMB 373 Box 10003, Saipan, MP 96950 or email newsic426@gmail.com.
New Star International Corporation dba Mura Ichiban Restaurant.

Job Vacancy Announcement

1- Accountant
Degree in Accounting. Peachtree/QuickBooks. 3 - 5 years' experience. No Criminal Record.

1- Purchasing Manager
2–4 years' experience. Background in writing merchandise proposals/negotiations. Computer literate.

2- Graphic Artist
3–5 years' experience. Degree holder of Fine Arts.

1- Sales Representative
3–5 years' experience. Can work under pressure. Microsoft/Excel literate. Must know how to write Business Proposals. Able to drive.

1- Quality Control
2–4 years' experience in Apparel Business. Good eyesight. Excellent in judgment/decision making on the finish product.

U.S qualified applicants,
Email your resume at
hr.islandapprael@gmail.com
No phone calls please

Island Apparel
P.O. Box 502912,
Saipan MP 96950

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

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Sponsors ditch Sharapova, despite her textbook apology

MOSCOW (AP)—Nike and other sponsors swiftly distanced themselves from Maria Sharapova on Tuesday after the world's highest-earning female athlete outed herself as a longtime user of a recently banned drug.

Swiss watch brand Tag Heuer and German luxury car company Porsche quickly followed the sportswear giant, suspending their support of the five-time Grand Slam winner after she announced on Monday that she failed a drug test for meldonium at the Australian Open in January, days after the substance was banned.

Many other athletes have attacked the messenger, challenged the results or blamed others after being confronted privately by positive tests for banned drugs. Sharapova went public instead, taking full responsibility and effectively throwing herself at the mercy of the International Tennis Federation.

"I know that with this, I face consequences," Sharapova said, waving away a question that invited her to blame her doctor or someone else on her team.

"I have to take full responsibility because it's my body and it's what I put into my body and I can't blame anyone but myself," she said. "At the end of the day everything you do is about you."

The former world No. 1 could face a lengthy ban, possibly ending her season and preventing her from competing for Russia at the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

Much more costly would be losing the advertising revenue that has made her the top earning female athlete for 11 straight years, according to Forbes.

"We have decided to suspend our relationship with Maria while the investigation continues," Nike said in a statement. TAG Heuer said it has abandoned talks on renewing its sponsorship, which expired in December, "in view of the current situation." Porsche said it has "chosen to postpone planned activities" with Sharapova "until further details are released and we can analyze the situation." And Evian, the water company, said it "will follow closely the development of the investigation."

Industry veterans were surprised by how quickly these companies backed away from such a bankable performer. Sharapova earned an estimated $29.5 million last year alone, the vast majority off the court.

"She's a one-woman marketing machine," said Nigel Currie, a British-based sponsorship consultant.

But marketers have become more sensitive to doping scandals after the public denials of athletes such as Lance Armstrong or Barry Bonds, especially in the age of social media.

"Waiting around makes a brand look indecisive," said branding expert Allen Adamson, founder of Brand Simple Consulting. "When in doubt, you don't want to be connecting your brand with an athlete who has not played by the rules."

Still, none of Sharapova's sponsors have cut ties altogether, and other athletes have rebounded from scandals: Nike stuck with Tiger Woods after he apologized for cheating on his wife, and welcomed back Michael Vick after he served time for an illegal dog fighting ring.

Though Sharapova did a "textbook" job of owning up to her mistake, questions linger, including whether she listed the drug among her medications when she was tested in Australia, said Paul Swangard, who lectures at the Warsaw Sports Marketing Center at the University of Oregon.

Answering those questions could determine how quickly Sharapova, 28, can return to competition, which would be her best way of quickly rebuilding her image, Swangard added. "If she is banned at the age that she is at, she might not have a chance to use her playing ability to rebuild her credibility."

Sharapova has dropped to No. 7 in the WTA rankings, and due to injuries, she has played just three tournaments and the Fed Cup final in the last eight months since Wimbledon.

This raises the possibility that sponsors may have acted quickly in part because her brand isn't as strong now, said Manish Tripathi, assistant professor of marketing at Emory University's Goizueta Business School.

"If she was playing the way Serena Williams is playing right now, Nike wouldn't have acted this quickly," Tripathi said.

"The fact that she got out in front of it and continues to be apologetic and up front and proactive about drug testing will make it easier for her. But the big thing she has to do to get over this is win something," he said.

The World Anti-Doping Agency banned meldonium starting this year because it aids oxygen uptake and endurance. Sharapova, who said she has taken meldonium for 10 years for health issues, said she neglected to click on a link in a late December email to check the new list of banned substances.

AP

Tennis Academy students walk past a poster showing Russian tennis ace Maria Sharapova, right, on the wall at the Kazan Tennis Academy in Kazan, Russia, Tuesday, March 8, 2016. Three of Maria Sharapova's major sponsors are cutting ties with the Russian tennis star after she acknowledged failing a doping test at the Australian Open. Sportswear giant Nike, Swiss watch brand Tag Heuer and German luxury car company Porsche moved quickly to distance themselves from the five-time Grand Slam winner after she announced the positive test at a news conference in Los Angeles on Monday.

Drug in Sharapova doping case used by Soviet troops in 1980s

MOSCOW (AP)—The drug at the center of Maria Sharapova's doping case, regularly given to Soviet troops in the 1980s to boost their stamina while fighting in Afghanistan, is normally prescribed for medical use for periods of four to six weeks.

Sharapova faces possible sanctions after testing positive for meldonium, also known as mildronate, a drug the Russian tennis star said she started using 10 years ago for various medical issues. Sharapova did not indicate in her announcement Monday how often she has taken it.

Her lawyer, John J. Haggerty, declined to go into specifics Tuesday but said during a conference call he wanted "to disabuse the concept that Maria took mildronate every day for 10 years because that's simply not the case."

Grindeks, the Latvian company that manufactures meldonium, said in an emailed statement to The Associated Press: "Depending on the patient's health condition, treatment course of meldonium preparations may vary from four to six weeks. Treatment course can be repeated twice or thrice a year. Only physicians can follow and evaluate patient's health condition and state whether the patient should use meldonium for a longer period of time."

Haggerty said "Maria at all times took the mildronate in accordance with the recommendations of her doctor." He repeatedly declined to go into specifics about Sharapova's treatment, claiming he had to adhere to the "strict confidentiality" of the International Tennis Federation's process. An ITF spokesman told The Associated Press, however, that the organization places no restrictions on what players and their representatives can say publicly about an ongoing case.

Sharapova, a five-time Grand Slam champion, said Monday she failed a doping test at the Australian Open in January for meldonium, which became a banned substance under the World Anti-Doping Agency code this year.

Meldonium is a heart medicine that improves blood flow and is little-known in the U.S., but it was once common in the Soviet military.

Lakers handle Magic for rare back-to-back victories

LOS ANGELES (AP)—D'Angelo Russell scored 27 points, Jordan Clarkson added 24 and the Los Angeles Lakers won consecutive games for the second time since Jan. 3, beating the Orlando Magic 107-98 Tuesday night.

Julius Randle matched his career high with 23 points and had 11 rebounds in the Lakers' first game since their jaw-dropping victory over defending champion Golden State on Sunday.

Los Angeles followed up that shocker with an outstanding group effort from the three key members of the club's young core. Russell, Randle and Clarkson scored 20 points apiece in the same game for the first time.

Victor Oladipo scored 26 points and Evan Fournier had 23 for the Magic, who have lost three straight.

Kobe Bryant sat out to rest his sore right shoulder. He has skipped four of the last five home games in his farewell season.

Russell, Clarkson and Randle combined for 31 of the Lakers' 39 points in the third while the Lakers matched their highest-scoring quarter of the season. Russell had 14 points on 6-for-9 shooting in the period, securing his sixth 20-point game in nine outings since the rookie No. 2 pick rejoined the starting lineup.

Nobody else on Los Angeles' roster scored more than eight points, but the three young stars gave a tantalizing glimpse of the Lakers' future late in the worst three-season stretch in the 16-time NBA champion franchise's history.

Orlando didn't really threaten down the stretch as the Lakers comfortably held on for their 14th win of the season.

The Lakers improved to 6-24 since Jan. 3 and still sit last in the Western Conference and second-worst in the overall NBA standings.

The Magic have lost on the first two stops of their four-game West Coast road trip.

AP

Los Angeles Lakers forward Nick Young tries to save the ball during the first half of the team's NBA basketball game against the Orlando Magic on Tuesday, March 8, 2016, in Los Angeles.

Spurs 116, Timberwolves 91

In Minneapolis, Ettore Messina had a simple goal when he took over the San Antonio Spurs for two games while coach Gregg Popovich stayed home to tend to a family matter.

"The machine is a well-oiled machine," Messina said. "It goes on. You try to sit at the wheel and steer and try not to mess it up. Keep it straight."

After veering off course in Indiana, Messina steered the Spurs back on to the track in an overwhelming performance against Minnesota.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 29 points and seven rebounds to help the Spurs bounce back from a rare loss with a 116-91 victory over the Timberwolves on Tuesday night.

Kawhi Leonard scored 15 points and the Spurs (54-10) led by as many as 26 points in a game they played without Tim Duncan, Tony Parker, Manu Ginobili and Popovich. David West scored 18 points as the Spurs shot 55.3 percent and only turned the ball over nine times.

"I thought guys came back understanding we have to be better on both ends of the floor," Aldridge said.

Andrew Wiggins had 23 points and eight rebounds for the Timberwolves. Karl-Anthony Towns had 19 points and nine boards, and Zach LaVine scored 15 points.

The Wolves have been playing for some time without Kevin Garnett (leg), Nikola Pekovic (foot) and Nemanja Bjelica (foot), and ran out of gas in their fourth game in five nights.

"They need to remember these losses though," interim coach Sam Mitchell said. "If you're ever going to get better, if you're ever going to win, you have to remember the times where you got your butt kicked."

The Spurs haven't dealt with much losing this season, and they responded to their 10th defeat of the season with a workman-like dismantling of the Timberwolves. Even with their three mainstays out of the lineup and their peerless coach at home tending to a family issue, they didn't miss a beat.

The Spurs shot a season-low 35 percent overall and 14 percent from 3-point range against Indiana on Monday night. They were much better against Minnesota's young and porous defense. Aldridge got whatever he wanted, peppering the Wolves with mid-range jumpers and throwing down an emphatic dunk on Towns to get the Spurs going in the second quarter.

San Antonio closed the half with a 9-0 run, then just leaned on the young Wolves in the third to break it open.

The Spurs turned the ball over just three times in the first three quarters and now head home for five straight games at AT&T Center, where they are 30-0 this season.

Hawks 91, Jazz 84

In Salt Lake City, Jeff Teague scored 24 points to lead Atlanta to the road win.

The Hawks moved within 1 1/2 games of idle Miami for the No. 4 spot in the Eastern Conference.

The Jazz fell two games behind Houston for the eighth and final spot in the West.

Teague added six assists, while Paul Millsap finished with 18 points and nine rebounds.

Gordon Hayward led the Jazz with 22 points, and Derrick Favors scored 16.

Raptors 104, Nets 99

In Toronto, DeMar DeRozan had 25 points for Toronto, and Kyle Lowry added 23 points and nine assists.

Brook Lopez had 35 points, one shy of his season high, for the Nets, who lost the season series to the Raptors for the first time since 2009-10.

The Raptors rallied from a 16-point halftime deficit to get back on track at home after their franchise-record, 12-game home win streak ended Sunday against Houston.

The Raptors got within two courtesy of a 22-9 run over the final 5:55 of the third quarter and finally jumped in front on Patrick Patterson's 3-pointer to open the fourth.

Nuggets 110, Knicks 94

In Denver, Kenneth Faried had 24 points and 10 rebounds to help the Nuggets to their eighth straight win over the Knicks at the Pepsi Center.

Nikola Jokic scored eight of his 20 points in the fourth quarter as Denver had six players in double figures.

Carmelo Anthony finished with 30 points against his former team. He is now 0-3 when playing at his old stomping grounds since being traded to New York in February 2011.

New York rookie Kristaps Porzingis was limited to six points in his return after missing a game with a bruised left leg. The Knicks were dealt a blow before the game when forward Lance Thomas hurt his left knee in warmups.

SIDEBAR Kerr calls for Warriors to clean up turnovers, defense

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—So what if coach Steve Kerr added a pair of extra turnovers to his team's ugly, uncharacteristic two-day total? He made his point that the Golden State Warriors' sloppy play of late must stop, well before the playoffs begin as the record-setting NBA champions chase another title.

"Yeah, 46 turnovers in the last 36 hours, inexcusable," Kerr said of what should actually have been 44 turnovers. "I think the team leading the league averages 12 or 13 a game so some are going to happen, but I can rattle off 10 easy that were just inexcusable. Sometimes the game comes too easy for our guys and they just think they can do anything."

That's largely because Golden State has been so, so good this season—far better than during that special run to the franchise's first title in 40 years last year.

Sure, the Warriors won a 45th straight regular-season home game on Monday night to surpass the 1995-96 Chicago Bulls' previous-best mark and improve to 56-6. Yes, reigning MVP Stephen Curry became the first player in NBA history to make 300 3-pointers in a single season—with 20 games still to go.

"It's still kind of surreal to have accomplished that knowing that I love to shoot the ball and I try to do it at a high level," Curry said.

All those milestones can be properly celebrated, Kerr just wants more from this group than what he has seen of late. He wants his Warriors to know one thing about the turnovers after matching a season high with 24 on Monday against the Magic: "That's kind of our weakness."

"If we don't get that cleaned up then we are in big trouble," Kerr said. "That's a major goal for us going forward."

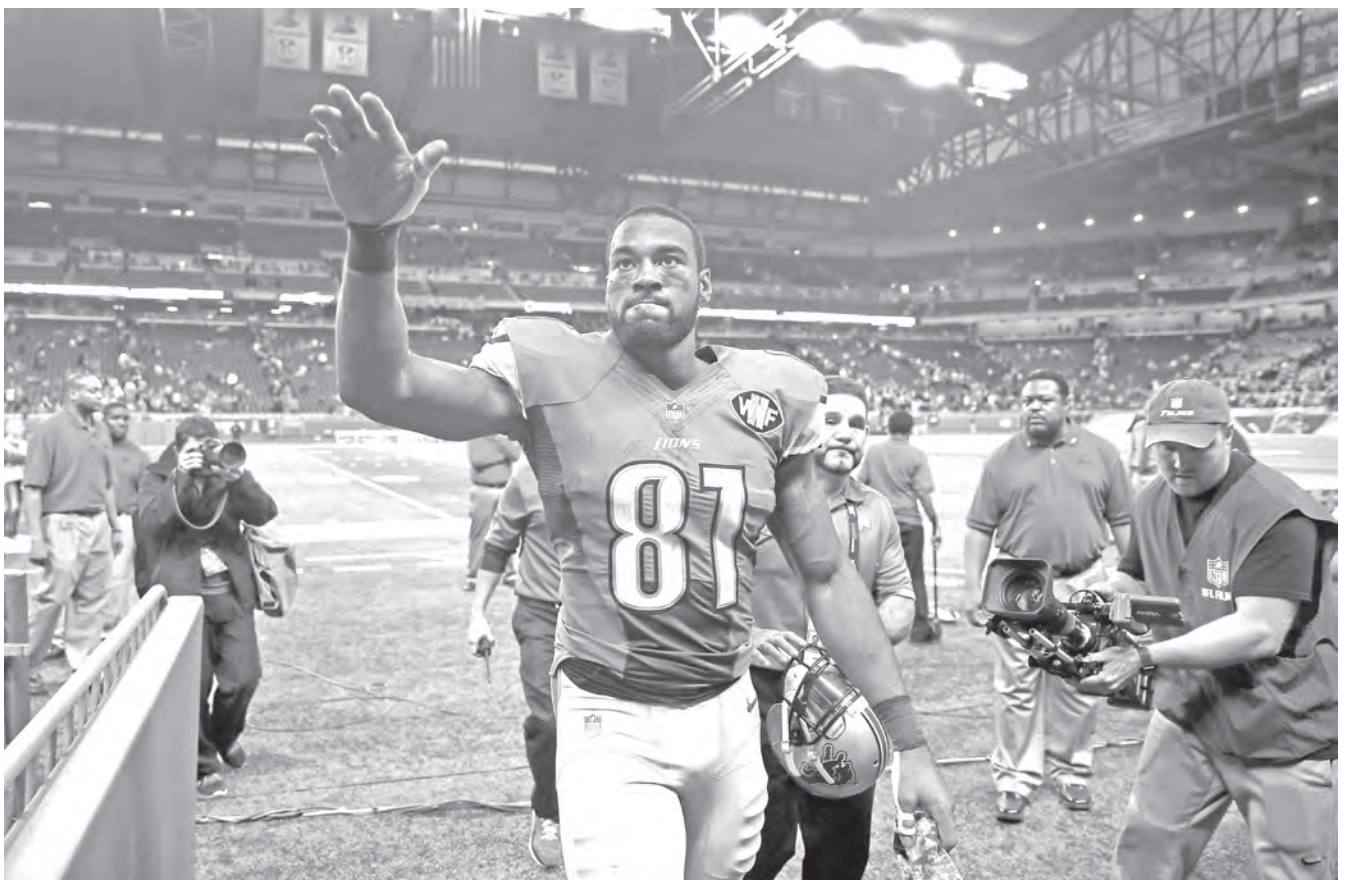
The miscues nearly cost Golden State on its precious home floor in Oracle Arena, where the Warriors held off Orlando 119-113. A day earlier, they lost 112-95 to the lowly Lakers in Los Angeles with 20 turnovers.

Curry spent his day off Tuesday golfing, then visiting Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School in Oakland during the afternoon to talk to the students about the importance of a healthy lifestyle—including drinking water—making good choices and going to college. He high-fived the children and agreed to be doused with water.

The superstar point guard is eager to get back on the court Wednesday night at home against Utah as the Warriors try to become even better down the stretch.

"Right now it's kind of an awkward period in the schedule when you have 20 games left and you're trying to lock up No. 1 seed and everybody's talking about the record 73 wins," Curry said in a sit-down Tuesday.

Detroit Lions star Johnson retires after 9 seasons



AP

In this Nov. 9, 2014, file photo, Detroit Lions wide receiver Calvin Johnson waves to fans after defeating the Miami Dolphins 20-16 in a NFL football game in Detroit. Calvin Johnson has retired. The 30-year-old receiver, known as Megatron, announced his decision Tuesday, March 8, 2016, to walk away from the NFL after nine mostly spectacular seasons with the Detroit Lions.

DETROIT (AP)—Calvin Johnson, one the most spectacular receivers in NFL history, retired from the Detroit Lions on Tuesday and rekindled memories of the way superstar running back Barry Sanders quietly stepped away from football.

The 30-year-old Johnson called it a career after nine seasons filled with highlight-reel catches, dozens of touchdowns and nearly 12,000 yards receiving. The 6-foot-5 receiver was known as Megatron, a sign of respect for his imposing skills and unusual mixture of speed, power and gracefulness.

"Let me assure you that this was not an easy or hasty decision," Johnson said. "I, along with those closest to me, have put a lot of time, deliberation and prayer into this decision and I truly am at peace with it."

Shortly after Detroit finished last season with a 7-9 mark—their seventh losing season in nine years—Johnson announced he was evaluating his future. He had reportedly told some teammates entering last season that it would be his last and told coach Jim Caldwell afterward that he was retiring.

Johnson piled up 731 career receptions for 11,619 yards, a league-record 86.1 yards receiving per game, and 83 touchdowns against defenses often geared to stop him. He reached 10,000 yards (115 games) and 11,000 yards (127 games) yards quicker than anyone in NFL history. Including the postseason, he has another league mark with six 200-yard receiving games.

Johnson broke one of Hall of Famer Jerry Rice's records with 1,964 yards receiving in 2012. He ranked among league leaders last season with 88 receptions for 1,214 yards and nine TDs, playing through lingering injuries as he often did.

"Not only is he as good as any player I've ever seen, but I am convinced that God has not put a finer person on this earth than Calvin Johnson," Caldwell said.

The three-time All Pro and six-time Pro Bowl receiver leaves Detroit much as Sanders did. The Hall of Famer slipped away from the Lions shortly before the 1999 season after he had 1,491 yards rushing as a 30-year-old running back the previous year, faxing the announcement to a friend at his hometown newspaper.

Like Sanders, the quiet and humble Johnson avoided the spotlight and released a statement of his own.

"While I truly respect the significance of this, those who know me best will understand and not be surprised that I choose not to have a press conference," Johnson said. "After much prayer, thought and discussion with loved ones, I have made the difficult decision to retire from the Lions and pro football. I have played my last game of football."

Detroit drafted Johnson out of Georgia Tech with the No. 2 pick in 2007 and gave him a six-year deal worth up to $64 million. Former teammate Roy William gave him his nickname and Johnson gave fans in the Motor City a reason to watch their scuffling team. Like Sanders, his jaw-dropping plays made the Lions bearable.

"He was an amazing and rare talent both on and off the field, and I feel lucky to have been able to see him play," Sanders said on his website.

Unlike Sanders, Johnson had to endure the NFL's first 0-16 season in 2008 and he never won a playoff game.

The Lions have now had one of the best running backs and receivers in league history and only one playoff victory to show for it. Sanders helped Detroit beat Dallas in the playoffs on Jan. 5, 1992, the franchise's only successful day in the postseason since winning the 1957 NFL title.

Johnson, though, refused to ever rant about how the team failed to surround him with enough good players and coaches to win when it mattered most.

He declined last season to say if he would restructure his contract, which called for him to count $24 million against the salary cap next season. In 2012, he signed an eight-year contract through 2019 that could've potentially paid him $132 million. The Lions said Tuesday only that "matters were settled to the satisfaction of the parties" one day before free agency opened across the league.

"He was the epitome of dignity, class, humility and excellence," Lions owner Martha Firestone Ford said.

Johnson faced constant double teams, sometimes drawing two defensive backs pressing him close to the line as if he was lined up wide for a punt team. There were times, though, Johnson couldn't be stopped. He was fast enough to zip past defensive backs, running a 40-yard dash in 4.4 seconds, and was athletic enough to rise over them with his 45-inch vertical leap.

"We haven't seen a wide receiver with Calvin's measurables," Hall of Fame receiver Cris Carter once said. "The only thing that will stop him from being one of the all-time greats is not staying healthy."

In the end, health concerns seem to be what shortened his career.

The Lions let him miss some practices in recent years, hoping to cut down on wear and tear, knowing no one worked harder.

"He's already bigger and stronger than everybody and you'd think he'd take a day off in the weight room, but he works out every day like he's training for the combine," former Lions teammate Dominic Raiola said in 2012. "He's got a LeBron James-type build and you don't see that much in this league. They don't make football players that big, ripped up like him with the ability to run fluidly like he does."

Raiola and Rob Sims, another former offensive lineman for the Lions, will never forget watching Johnson lift and flip huge tractor tires with ease as if they were small enough to fit on a bicycle

"We were like, 'Man, look at that,'" Sims recalled, several months after seeing the spectacle. "That'll be a story I'll tell my grandkids about when they ask me about Calvin Johnson."

When Johnson was asked to react to what his teammates said about him back then, the soft-spoken native of Tyrone, Georgia, simply shrugged his shoulders and offered one of his many aw-shucks responses.

"I don't impress myself," he said.

Broncos hope they do not also bid farewell to Osweiler

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—Now that they've said goodbye to Peyton Manning, the Denver Broncos are hoping they don't also have to bid farewell to Brock Osweiler.

The Broncos might be scrambling if Manning's longtime apprentice gets a break-the-bank offer from another team when free agency kicks off Wednesday.

That would leave them with just one quarterback in Trevor Siemian, whose lone snap in the NFL was a kneel-down against Pittsburgh on Dec. 20.

Osweiler made $660,000 last season in the final year of his rookie contract. He's about to get a huge raise, somewhere in the range of $14 million annually, although it's not known how much money the Broncos are guaranteeing in their prove-it-to-us short-term offer.

The Houston Texans are reportedly high on the 26-year-old passer who went 5-2 in place of an injured Manning last season before getting benched when Manning returned to the huddle for the Broncos' playoff run that culminated with their 24-10 win over Carolina in Super Bowl 50 last month.

Manning retired Monday, one month after winning his second Super Bowl.

On Tuesday, the sentimentality and celebration turned to the cold, hard reality of the NFL as the Broncos released three veterans to gain some financial flexibility: tight end Owen Daniels, right guard Louis Vasquez and long snapper Aaron Brewer.

Daniels, a 10-year veteran who spent his entire career with coach Gary Kubiak, caught three TD passes during the regular season and two more in the AFC championship against the Patriots. He followed Kubiak to Denver from Baltimore a year ago and ranked third on the Broncos in receptions (46), receiving yards (517) and TDs.

Williams signs $16 million, 2-year deal with Dolphins

MIAMI (AP)—Defensive end Mario Williams signed a $16 million, two-year contract Tuesday with the Miami Dolphins, who now have an abundance of Pro Bowl pass rushers—for the moment, at least.

Williams reached the agreement a week after being released by the Buffalo Bills. The Dolphins sought reinforcement at end because they may lose defensive end Olivier Vernon in free agency, and the status of four-time Pro Bowl end Cameron Wake is in doubt, too.

Miami's defensive front also includes four-time Pro Bowl tackle Ndamukong Suh.

Last week Miami placed a $12.734 million transition tag on Vernon, allowing him to negotiate with other teams. He's widely expected to sign elsewhere, and the Dolphins are now unlikely to match the offer, although they have the right of first refusal.

Wake might be allowed to depart, too. He's 34 and coming off a torn Achilles tendon, and the Dolphins have been negotiating in vain to reduce his $9.8 million salary cap hit.

The pass rush could use an upgrade—Miami tied for 25th in the NFL with 31 sacks last season.

Changes up front are part of a revamping of the defense under new coach Adam Gase. Miami also swung a trade this week to acquire cornerback Byron Maxwell and linebacker Kiko Alonso from the Eagles for a draft choice, pending their physicals.

Williams, 31, has 96 sacks, but had only five last season under new Bills coach Rex Ryan. At times, Williams complained about his role and seemed disinterested.

Selected No. 1 overall in the 2006 draft, Williams spent his first six seasons in Houston. He has made the Pro Bowl four times, most recently in 2014, when he had 14 1/2 sacks.

Williams signed after visiting Miami last weekend, and his signing will likely be applauded by Dolphins quarterback Ryan Tannehill. Williams has 13 sacks versus Miami, more than against any other team, and that include 8 1/2 sacks of Tannehill in the past four years.

Messi beats Ronaldo in AP Global Football 10

LONDON (AP)—Lionel Messi edged Cristiano Ronaldo to take player of the week honors in the Associated Press Global Football 10 on Tuesday.

Both players scored five goals in two games last week, for Barcelona and Real Madrid respectively, but Messi received the most votes from the voting panel.

He scored a hat trick in the 5-1 win at Rayo Vallecano and followed it up with a double in the 4-0 rout of Eibar for the Spanish league leaders.

Ronaldo netted once in Madrid's 3-1 victory at Levante midweek, and then hit four in the 7-1 thrashing of Celta Vigo on Saturday.

"It was a toss of the coin between Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, but Messi gets the nod with his overall performance over two matches," Marco Monteverde of News Corp. Australia said.

Riyad Mahrez took third place after scoring the winner in Leicester's 1-0 victory at Watford on Saturday, which put his team five points clear atop the English Premier League.

West Ham's Dimitri Payet entered this week's vote in fourth after inspiring his team to a 3-2 comeback win at Everton. West Ham netted three times in the final 12 minutes, with Payet scoring the winner in the last minute.

Roma midfielder Mohamed Salah took fifth for spearheading his team to a seventh straight Serie A victory with two goals in the emphatic 4-1 win against Fiorentina.

Antoine Griezmann, Luis Suarez, Gonzalo Higuain, Alexandre Lacazette and Claudio Pizarro rounded out the top 10 players in this week's poll.

Thanks to Messi's efforts, Barcelona remained team of the week, with Madrid finishing as runner-up.

Leicester is third after its victory over Watford.

"Riyad Mahrez kept Leicester's dream alive by scoring a wonderful goal at Watford," Aurelio Capaldi of RAI Sport in Italy said. "Claudio Ranieri's team are five points ahead of Tottenham with nine games to go and it looks like it's an unbelievable opportunity for the Foxes to make history."

Atletico Madrid is fourth, after victories in the week against Valencia and Real Sociedad in the Spanish league, followed by Liverpool after its Premier League victories over Manchester City and Crystal Palace.

West Ham, Juventus, Roma, Manchester City and Borussia Dortmund complete the top 10 teams of the week.

Meanwhile, in Madrid, Ronaldo and James Rodriguez scored second-half goals to help Real Madrid defeat Roma 2-0 and advance to the Champions League quarterfinals for the sixth consecutive season on Tuesday.

Ronaldo scored his 13th goal in the competition this season by turning home a cross by substitute forward Lucas Vazquez in the 64th and Rodriguez added to the lead four minutes later with a low shot from inside the area to give Madrid a 4-0 aggregate victory.

"It was a difficult game, but in the end we got our objective which was to go through," Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane said. "Over the 90 minutes, many things could have happened because we were up against a team with good players, but we got the job done."

In the other game on Tuesday, Wolfsburg reached the last eight for the first time with a 1-0 win at home over Belgian champion Gent.

Roma had a few clear chances before Madrid scored but could not capitalize on them to reverse the 2-0 loss in Rome, failing in its attempt to reach the quarters for the first time in eight years.

Forward Mohamed Salah had two incredible opportunities that could have changed the match if they had gone in. Striker Edin Dzeko also was in a good position to open the scoring but squandered his chance.

"You can think that if we had scored first, the game would have been different," Roma coach Luciano Spalletti said. "But the reality is that we lost 2-0 twice. It's only right that Real Madrid will go through. We've got to improve in terms of our mentality and how decisive we are. We weren't at the level we had to be tonight."

Despite allowing chances on counterattacks, Madrid controlled the game at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium, where it is yet to concede a goal in four Champions League games this season. Madrid and Barcelona are the only unbeaten teams in this season's competition.

Salah's first chance came in the 28th minute, when he sent a shot into the side netting from a great position inside the area, and early in the second half he missed the target from close range.

AP

FC Barcelona's Lionel Messi, center, celebrates his goal with teammates Luis Suarez, left, and Munir El Haddadi during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between SD Eibar and Barcelona, at Ipurua stadium, in Eibar, northern Spain, Sunday, March 6, 2016.

SBL meeting today

Organizers of the Saipan Baseball League have scheduled a meeting for managers/coaches today at 5:30pm at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gynasium.

Details on the opening of 2016 SBL season, entry fees, uniforms, waiver forms, and other related matters will be discussed. SBL urged teams to bring preliminary rosters and entry fees at the meeting.

For more information, contact league director Tony Rogolifoi at 234-6672, or 285-3966. ***(PR)***

MAMIKO

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this year.

"I was also surprised to find out that I am the top female Saipan finisher. It was a hot race, but a good one. The race was a good training for me and I did well in the bike even though I used an MTB," she added.

Meanwhile, other top age group finishers in the women's division were Kim, Choi, Shawna Brennfleck, Ayano Braxton, Atsuko Sato, and Yukari Nakajima.

Nakajima prevailed in the 50 to 54 division after clocking in at 3:39:45 and beating fellow Japanese Rika Fujita (3:55:44). Sato also won her one-on-one showdown against Ayumi Kaga in the 40 to 44 age group as the former submitted 3:11:25 versus the latter's 3:19:20.

In the 35 to 39 age group, Brennfleck was way ahead of Tiffany Lin and Kathy Ruszala after logging 3:08:46. Lin completed the race in 3:47:10, while Ruszala recorded 3:51:52. Kim ruled the 19-and-under age group against Saipan youth athletes Angel Marie Tan (2:59:26) and Coume Kaga (3:08:34), while Choi downed compatriot Hong and Kate Freeman (3:17:07)

PANGILINAN

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Espana and Shirley Kim, 21-15, 18-21, 22-20. Morgan and Erica Jung took the short route to victory in the mixed doubles C after outclassing Hajin Oh and Miles Rodriguez, 21-14, 21-7.

In the second set of games in Day 1 of the NMBA-sanctioned competition, Lanie Bartolome and Windy Fernandez recorded the first win in the group after prevailing against the mother and daughter tandem of Malou and Nicole Malasarte, 18-21, 21-13, 21-13. In the women's doubles B, Rowena Sison and Cheng Saturno made short work of Vilma Reyes and Jaja Bocago, 21-12, 21-12, while Patrick Fernandez and A.J. Ortega got a free win in the men's doubles C after a no-show from Denmark Lizardo and Carl Lomibao.

Meanwhile, three men's doubles games capped the first day of NMBA's season-opening tournament.

In the men's doubles AB, Glenn Buultjens partnered with Nathan Guerrero in sweeping brothers Daniel and Ezekiel Macario, 21-18, 21-16. In the men's doubles B division, Jun Lee teamed up with Joel Ortega and they also needed only two games to down Patrick Jake Fieldad and Oh Im Boh, 21-13, 21-11.

In the men's doubles C, Morgan got his second victory in one day after joining forces with Jun Sik Kim in outlasting Henry and Hajin Ho. Morgan and Kim dropped the first game, 20-22, but still took the win after topping the last two, 21-17, 21-13.

Matches in the IT&E-backed tournament continued last Saturday and Sunday and results will be reported in *Saipan Tribune's* Friday issue.

TEREGEYO

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in the ensuing play to bring the lead back to 3 points, 71-68, and the scores remained unchanged as Mobil/JP World failed to cash in on three attempts. Pagarao muffed a reverse layup and then a triple, while Elgene Mangali had an airball from downtown.

Mobil/JP World collapsed in the fourth quarter as it was held to one field goal in the last four minutes of the match.

Meanwhile, Kauila Enterprises earned its second straight win after routing Kalayaan, 86-71.

Kauila got off to a jackrabbit start, taking a 31-16 advantage in the first period and then found its target anew in the second half after slowing down in the second frame.

Ken Viray top-scored for Kauila with his 22 points, while Jorge De Guzman chipped in 17 and Ronald Rueda and Jun Pantaleon contributed 15 and 10, respectively.

Roger Herrera paced Kalayaan with his 27 points, while Sonny Lerio added 24. Only five players scored for Kalayaan, which absorbed its second loss in as many games.

In other results, defending champion San Antonio Patriots snapped their two-game losing skid after defeating Island's Best Choice, 80-69, last Saturday. In the other match last weekend, Ghasias Brothers slipped past GMI Market, 103-99, to remain unbeaten in two games.

First Game

Kauila 88—Viray 22, De Guzman 17, Rueda 15, Pantaleon 10, Santos 8, Jumaquiao 8, Valiente 6.

Kalayaan 71—Herrera 27, Leriod 23, Sablan 11, Rotap 6, Hernandez 4.

Scoring by quarters: 31-16, 46-44, 65-54, 88-71.

Second Game

CES Electronics 71—Teregeyo 24, Tabora 17, Capalad 8, Salalila 7, Andrew 6, Norita 4, Lizama 3, Hernandez 3.

Mobil/JP World 68—Pagarao 17, Mangali 16, Camacho 7, Paraiso 6, Sanciangco 5, Ferrer 4, Quan 4, Lilles 4, Dizon 3.

Scoring by quarters: 13-13, 30-32, 44-52, 71-68.

Run Leg of 2015 Tagaman Triathlon

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ and ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Jay Diyco heads back to American Memorial Park to complete the Olympic course of last Saturday's Tagaman Triathlon.

South Korea's Jae Yun Won keeps a steady pace as he cruises along Beach Road.

Fr. Ryan Jimenez starts the run leg of the Olympic distance course.

Ayana Braxton coasts along Beach Road.

Saipan Swim Club's Akira Kadokura, right, runs to the finish line along with teammate Steve Pixley.

Tyce Mister raises his arms as he nears completion of the race.

Brad Ruszala runs back to American Memorial Park to finish the 10K course.

Atsuko Sato heads out to the run course.

Mieko Carey keeps a bottle of water on her hand to fight off the searing heat during the 21.1K run race.

From left, Laurie Boyer, Ayaka Sato, and Akiko Miller celebrate at the finish line.

Lakers handle Magic for rare back-to-back victories

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Detroit Lions star Johnson retires after 9 seasons

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Mamiko shows way in Olympic course

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mamiko Berger heads out to the run course during last Saturday's 2016 Tagaman Triathlon.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mamiko Berger conquered the Olympic course of the 2016 Tagaman Triathlon in style as she became the top woman finisher among Saipan participants in last Saturday's race.

Berger registered 2:51:02 in the 1.5-kilometer swim, 40K bike, and 10K run to lead Saipan female finishers and take the top honors in the 45 to 49 age group. The 46-year-old winner placed ahead of five others, including former pro division participant Kimiko McKagan, who timed in at 3:07:01 for third place. Berger was the only athlete in her age group to complete the course under the three-hour mark as runner-up Kaoru Takahashi clocked in at 3:05:46. Other finishers in the age group were Hiroko Maeda (3:19:00), Shoko Watanabe (3:56:20), and Clare Summers (4:04:26).

Berger, who was fourth overall in the women's field behind South Korea and 20 something triathletes Gyu Ri Kim (2:19:53), Won Jeong Choi (2:26:38), and Dan Bi Hong (2:39:52), had split times of 31:20, 1:35:35, and 43:57. The 2010 Micronesian Games 5,000m and 10,000m gold medalist was among the few athletes to finish the run leg under the scorching heat in less than one hour.

"I tried to push myself in the run leg after taking it easy in the swim and bike races because I am training for two marathons next month," said Berger, who will compete in the Saipan and Guam marathons set for April 10 and 16

See MAMIKO on Page 26

Pangilinan siblings win opener

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Siblings Jordan and Janelle Pangilinan led the opening day winners in the IT&E Doubles and Mixed Doubles Badminton Competition 2016 that kicked off last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex.

The Pangilinans swept Daniel Macario and Hannah Choi, 21-8, 21-16, in their mixed doubles A match in Northern Marianas Badminton Association's first tournament for the season.

The mixed doubles A game was one of the three opening matches in the IT&E-sponsored contest with the two others featuring mixed doubles B and C tiffs. Jeff Riman and Loida Ito played in the mixed doubles B and needed three games to slip past Rodwealth

See PANGILINAN on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
IT&E Doubles and Mixed Doubles Competition 2016 participants pose for a photo before the start of the games last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Teregeyo lifts CES to victory

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mobil/JP World's Sid Quan tries to hang on to the ball, while CES Electronics' Syl Teregeyo, right, and Jun Tabora stay in the rebound play during the fourth quarter of their game in the DL caging last Tuesday at the San Antonio court.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CES Electronics got its first win in the DL Corp Invitational Basketball League Season 5 following a 71-68 victory against Mobil/JP World last Tuesday at the San Antonio court.

Syl Teregeyo played a crucial role in the triumph after scoring 16 of his game-high 24 points in the fourth quarter. His and-1 play capped a 15-6 scoring spurt in the first five minutes of the fourth frame and gave CES the lead, 59-58, after falling behind by 8, 44-52, at the end of the third period.

The burly forward later made a reverse layup in the closing seconds of the match to turn a shaky 68-67 advantage to a 70-67 cushion. A split free throw from Lerio Pagarao kept Mobil/JP World in the game and they had a chance to tie the match after CES committed an error, but Sid Quan missed a point-blanked shot.

Jun Tabora also had a split

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